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Canadian Press Association

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

AT

ANNUAL MEETING, 1888
AND FIRST WINTER SESSION, 1889

List of Officers and Members

ACTON :
H. P. MOORE, FREE PRESS OFFICE

The Canadian Press Association.



CONSTITUTION.

ART. I.—This Society shall be known as The Canadian Press Association.

ART. II.—The Association shall consist of contributing members, viz. : Publishers, Proprietors and Editors of newspapers, actively engaged in business as such, and of such Honorary Members as the Society may from time to time elect, but no one holding a financial interest merely, or occupying the position of a stockholder or silent partner, or of an editorial or news-contributor, shall be eligible for election to this Association.

ART. III.—The officers shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary-Treasurer, an Assistant-Secretary, and an Executive Committee consisting of the office-bearers, the retiring President and five unofficial members, all of whom shall, in the event of more than one nomination for any office, be elected annually by ballot. Five of the Executive Committee to form a quorum.

ART. IV.—*Sec. 1.*—It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Association and Executive Committee, submit all motions in order, and otherwise discharge the duties of his office according to usage. In the absence of the President one of the Vice-Presidents in order of seniority shall preside.

Sec. 2.—It shall be the duty of the Secretary-Treasurer (aided by the Assistant-Secretary) to keep the minutes of each meeting, have charge of the books of record and other documents belonging to the Association, conduct all correspondence connected with the affairs of the Association, notify members of the time and place of meeting, and have charge of all moneys or other property of the Association, and

disburse the same upon the order of the President. He shall also report to the annual meeting the number of members and the financial position of the Association, with such remarks as he considers of advantage to the welfare of the Association.

Sec. 3.—It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to prepare business for the Association, to report to the annual meeting upon nominations of candidates that may have been submitted, to investigate all cases of infraction of the constitution and by-laws and report the result of such examination at the first succeeding annual meeting of the Association, and transact such other business as they may deem necessary in the interests of the Association.

Sec. 4.—The actual necessary outlay of members of the Executive Committee in attending regularly convened meetings in the interest of the Association shall be defrayed out of the general funds, on the order of the President or acting chairman of such meeting.

Sec. 5.—Meetings of the Executive Committee may be convened by the President on his own motion ; or the President or Secretary shall call a meeting on the requisition of three members of the Committee, of which meeting timely notice shall be forwarded to each member of the Executive Committee.

ART. V.—Ten members shall constitute a quorum of the Association for the transaction of business.

ART. VI.—The privilege of voting on all matters affecting the interests of this Association, or the business arrangements of newspaper proprietors, shall be confined to the active members of the Association. No member shall have more than one vote in such matters.

ART. VII.—Members of the Association of ten years standing upon severing their connection with the active duties of the press, may, upon application, be elected honorary members of the Association, on payment of the annual fee ; but such honorary members shall not have the privilege of taking part in the active business of the Association unless upon invitation of the President so to do. It shall be the duty of members, upon withdrawing from active newspaper duties, to communicate such fact to the Secretary of the Association.

ART. VIII.—Application for membership shall be made in writing, addressed to the Secretary, not later than the first day of June in every year. The Secretary shall forthwith submit to the Executive Committee the names of candidates for membership, and if their report is favourable he may issue an interim certificate entitling the holder to

the privileges of the Association until the annual meeting, at which meeting all such applications shall be submitted for approval or rejection; but candidates who have only become eligible for membership subsequent to the first day of June in any year may be nominated at such meeting, and such nomination referred to the Executive Committee, and should their report be favourable the candidate may be at once admitted to membership as prescribed by Art. ix.

ART. IX.—The election of members shall be by ballot at the annual meeting, and two-thirds favourable vote shall be necessary to admission.

ART. X.—The admission fee of the Association shall be four dollars, and afterwards an annual fee of one dollar shall be contributed by each member in advance. The privileges of membership shall not be extended to any member in arrears for fees.

ART. XI.—Any member two years in arrears for dues shall be specially notified thereof by the Secretary, and if such arrears are not cancelled previous to the succeeding annual meeting, the name of such delinquent shall be erased from the books of the Association.

ART. XII.—Any member not in arrears for dues may at any time sever his connection with the Association by notifying the Secretary, in writing, of his desire so to do.

ART. XIII.—The Executive Committee shall have power, and it shall be their duty, to withdraw the privileges of the Association from any member who may, during any annual excursion, conduct himself in any unbecoming manner, calculated to bring discredit on the Association.

ART. XIV.—This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any annual meeting of the Association, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given in the circular calling such annual meeting.

BY-LAWS.

ART. 1.—Every member found guilty of violating the rules of the Association, or any one of them, may be reprimanded or expelled, as the nature of the offence may warrant.

ART. 11.—Sec. 1.—The meetings shall be held at such places as may be determined upon by vote of the members at the regular annual session.

Sec. 2.—It shall be the duty of the Secretary-Treasurer to publish a notice of the time and place of meeting, in a general manner through his own paper, at least two weeks before the time of such meeting, all members of the Association to copy the same. The Secretary-Treasurer shall also send to the members circulars with the programme of proceedings at least a fortnight before the meeting, together with a statement of the arrearages, if any, of the members to which such circulars are sent.

Sec. 3.—The Editors of the place at which the annual meeting of the Association is to be held shall be a local committee of arrangements.

Sec. 4.—Members of this association may procure for the *bona fide* reporters engaged on their newspapers, certificates entitling them to such railway and other travelling privileges as are enjoyed by the members of the Association, upon payment of one dollar per annum for each certificate. Only one reporter from each such office is to be allowed on the annual excursion. Upon such reporter leaving the service of the member of the Association through whom his certificate was procured, such certificate shall become void, and will not be renewed except on a new application.

Sec. 5.—Any person holding a travelling certificate under the rules of this Association, either as member or reporter, who shall transfer his certificate or otherwise abuse his privileges under it, shall have such certificate recalled and his membership cancelled.

REGULATIONS,

The order of business shall be as follows :

1. Reading minutes of previous meeting.
2. Reception of communications.
3. Unfinished business.
4. Programme of business prepared by Executive Committee.
5. Election of officers for ensuing year.
6. Selection of the next place of meeting.
7. New business.

Canadian - Press - Association.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

THIRTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

The thirtieth annual meeting of the Canadian Press Association was held on the 31st July, 1888, pursuant to call of Executive Committee, in the Rossin House, City of Toronto.

The President, Mr. J. J. Crabbe, presiding.

The Minutes of last annual meeting were read and confirmed.

The President addressed the Association as follows:—

Members of the Canadian Press Association:

GENTLEMEN,—Since we last assembled in our annual meeting, matters vitally affecting the liberty of the Press have been prominently before the country, and Parliament has, in a great measure, removed the more glaring disabilities under which newspaper men laboured.

The libel law, which bore heavily on the outspoken publisher—who sought to do his duty to his country and her interests by exposing chicanery, regardless of the position the guilty party occupied in society or the state—has undergone a radical change.

In its universal demand for protection to free speech, the Press only desired the same liberty it has ever been free to accord to the public generally, and we believe we voice the feeling of the profession in saying that the changes in the law, so far as they have gone, have been satisfactory to them.

While politics are eschewed in our Association—and especially the question of the National Policy—there is a species of Local Protection which our members doing business outside the large centres of trade fervently desire, viz.: Protection from the canvassing agents of men who pay no taxes into the municipal treasury. The adoption of some scheme by you to break up this system would be a great boon to men who find the cream of the work taken out of their towns, while they are supposed to write up weekly column after column of fulsome praise of the town in the interest of the men who send their job printing to city offices.

The question of the resuscitation of the apprenticeship system will also be brought before you. That there is a necessity for some such movement is universally admitted. With the artistic development of the age comes the demand for an equal advance on the part of the printing trade. It is true the latter has kept pretty well abreast of the former, but this is the work of only one man in a hundred. The great majority of young men are not fired with an ambition to excel as high-class exponents of the Art Preservative of all Arts. They imagine they are tradesmen, full fledged, when they have spent twelve or eighteen months learning to "stick" type, and then go out into the world calling themselves printers. The good old-fashioned system of apprenticeship would remedy this in a great measure. There would not be so many botches, and employers could reasonably count on getting men who knew something more than the mere setting of a straight line of type.

In the rush which has become so universal during the last decade, the theoretical study of the printer's art has, in a great measure, been abandoned. This is to be regretted. The theoretical, as well as the practical, should be understood by every printer, and more especially by those having men under them, and apprentices to direct and teach.

An effort was made during the last session of Parliament to have the duty on American plate matter increased. This was considered to be against the interests of the Canadian publishers, and the Government declined to accede to the request. It is possible, however, that the same thing may be tried again, and if it is thought advisable, the Association would be within its province in appointing a committee to watch the proceedings, and take any steps it may consider necessary in the interests of the members.

Knowing that the physical constitution has not a little to do in influencing the mental, and that the latter in too many instances is developed by members of the fourth estate at the expense of the former, we are pleased to state that an address, bearing on this subject, will be delivered by a member who is an acknowledged authority all over the continent on such matters.

The questions of deadhead advertisements, how to work up subscriptions, the commission paid to advertising agents, and the clubbing system, will also be introduced for your consideration.

The trip to Cushing Island, with outings to Boston, the White Mountains, and other resorts in the neighborhood, with ablutions in—or under—"the salt sea wave," will no doubt be thoroughly enjoyed; while the evenings will be spent in the discussion of the above subjects, by gentlemen who have kindly consented to introduce them; together with music, readings, recitations, and patriotic addresses by members, representing the several nationalities.

Every member of the party is expected to do his or her full share in making the trip socially enjoyable, profitable, and healthful.

The thanks of the Association were tendered the President for his practical address, and discussion of the topics therein referred to was deferred until a subsequent session.

The Executive Committee reported regarding action taken in support of Parliamentary amendments of the law regarding libel, which report was, on motion, adopted.

A communication from the Mayor of Toronto was read, acknowledging with thanks an invitation from the President to be present at this meeting of the Association

Moved by Mr. P. E. W. Moyer, seconded by Mr. A. Pattullo,—That this Association would hereby express their hearty thanks to the Minister of Justice and the members of the Dominion Parliament, for passing an act to amend the law of libel in conformity with the wishes of the members of the Press of this Country. Carried.

The Secretary reported the following names of applicants for membership in this Association :—W. J. Gallagher, *Standard*, Pembroke; Sam Hughes, *Warder*, Lindsay; R. Wilson Smith, *Insurance Chronicle*, Montreal; J. B. Spur, *Herald*, Dundalk; W. M. O'Beirne, *Standard*, Woodstock; R. D. Warren, *Herald*, Georgetown; A. H. N. Jenkins, *Budget*, Brussels; A. R. Fawcett, *Advance*, Flesherton; E. Yeigh, *Canadian Advance*, Toronto; A. G. Henderson, *Chronicle*, Whitby; H. J. Snelgrove, *World*, Cobourg; R. A. Riky, *Free Press*, Shelburne; Rev. W. W. Smith, *Canadian Independent*, Newmarket; J. B. McLean, *Canadian Grocer*, Toronto.

Messrs. A. Pattullo, D. Creighton, M.P.P., and R. V. Somerville were appointed a committee on foregoing applications, and reported favourably. Report adopted.

Moved by Mr. Somerville, seconded by Mr. Clarke,—That the President do now appoint a Nominating Committee, to report a list of proposed officers of this Association for the ensuing year. Carried.

Messrs. E. E. Sheppard, C. D. Barr and P. E. W. Moyer were appointed as such committee, and subsequently reported the following :—President, Rev. Dr. Dewart, *Christian Guardian*, Toronto; 1st Vice-President, D. Creighton, M.P.P., *The Empire*, Toronto; 2nd Vice-President, Roy V. Somerville, *True Banner*, Dundas; Secretary-Treasurer, W. R. Climie, *The Sun*, Bowmanville; Recording Secretary, J. B. Traves, *Times*, Port Hope.

Executive Committee, H. E. Moore, *Free Press*, Acton; A. Pattullo, *Sentinel Review*, Woodstock; Lyman G. Jackson, *Era*, Newmarket; J. S. Brierly, *Journal*, St. Thomas; J. B. McLean, *Canadian Grocer*, Toronto; J. C. Jamieson, *Intelligencer*, Belleville; and the retiring President.

Auditors, W. Watt, Jr., *Expositor*, Brantford, and C. B. Robinson, *Canada Presbyterian*, Toronto.

On motion of Mr. Tye, seconded by Mr. Warren, the report of Nominating Committee was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Trayes, seconded by Mr. Robinson, Mr. J. T. Johnston, type founder, of Toronto, was elected an honorary member, of this Association.

Moved by Rev. W. F. Clarke, seconded by Mr. C. B. Robinson,—That for the information of the public, and to correct misapprehension, journals reporting this meeting be requested to call attention to Article II. of the Constitution, and to the fact that its provisions are rigidly enforced. Carried.

After some informal discussion on matters pertaining to the interest of the Association the meeting adjourned, subject to call of the President.

The annual excursion of the Association followed the annual meeting, the route this year being to Portland, Maine, and return, by Grand Trunk Railway, with trips to Boston, Peak's Island, Casco Bay, etc. The party, numbering about fifty, left Toronto in two Pullmans specially chartered for the occasion, and enjoyed a most agreeable "outing."

WINTER SESSION, 1889.

PRESS CLUB ROOMS,

TORONTO, Feb 22, 1889.

Meeting of Canadian Press Association held this date, pursuant to call of Executive Committee. In the absence of the President at the hour for which the meeting was convened, 11 a.m., Mr. W. Watt, Jr., of Brantford, *Expositor*, was appointed chairman *pro tem*.

The following programme of business, as arranged by the Executive Committee was presented :

"Apprenticeship."—L. G. Jackson, Newmarket.

"Subscription and Clubbing."—R. V. Somerville, Dundas.

"Advertising Rates, Local and Foreign."—C. D. Barr, Lindsay.

"Business Office Management."—J. B. Trayes, Port Hope.

"How to Deal with Correspondence."—D. Creighton, M.P.P., Toronto.

"Job Printing—What is a Fair Profit?"—H. P. Moore, Acton.

"How Best to Deal with the Questionable Business Methods of some Wholesale Houses."—A. F. Campbell, Brampton.

"Faulty Methods of Newspaper Discussion."—President Dewart, Toronto.

"The Libel Law."—John King, M.A., Berlin.
Question Drawer.

In the absence of Mr. Jackson, the second subject on the programme was called, Mr. Roy V. Somerville leading the discussion with the following paper:—

THE MATTER OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

BY ROY V. SOMERVILLE, "TRUE BANNER," DUNDAS.

In most country newspapers offices the amount of business coming under the head of "Subscriptions" is not only a very indefinite asset in any year but, as well, one about which there is too much little actual understanding, and a great lack of systematic care.

To get subscriptions, or, perhaps to get first the subscribers, is the prime object of every newspaper proprietor, but too many are contented with seeing their mail list grow year by year, and look upon that growth as a means of procuring advertising, which is the money maker for the newspaper department, rather than as an actual and realizable yearly business asset, which can be counted on for a definite cash return, and will go far at least to defray the expense of publishing the paper. Subscriptions that come in voluntarily are made welcome, but the idea of systematic collection is foreign to the average country publisher. The fear of offending "subscribers" who may withdraw their "support" if they are compelled to pay the ridiculously small sum usually asked for a country weekly promptly in advance, and of thus losing the good-will and influence of such "supporters" when advertising and job work are to be done, has turned too many of the mail lists of the country weeklies into nothing more or less than a kind of bribery fund whereby the large majority of alleged "subscribers" get the paper on such terms as they please, are allowed to pay or not as they please, naturally acquire a very contemptuous idea of the value and influence of the paper on which its own proprietor evidently fixes no value, and never exert themselves in the slightest degree to advance the interests of the paper, the proprietor of which, by his very cringing, and depreciation of his own property, defeats the object he had in view and loses not only his rightful income from his subscription list, but the active interest and co-operation which a sturdy, manly, indepen-

dent business course will secure in any community. To make your newspaper a humble offering each week on the altar of the imaginary greatness and influence of dozens or hundreds of people of the district is simply to educate them to look on your paper and yourself as of no importance and of no value in the community.

To some of those present this may seem an exaggerated view of the actual circumstances, but they will be the few who have learned to recognize the market value of their papers as newspapers and who believe that for value received, and not for value promised and very dimly prospective, should the weekly representative of their expenditure of good hard cash in paper, ink and wages, and in nervous energy and brain matter, be delivered at the homes of their customers.

"Customers" a live, well-conducted paper should and will have in plenty. "Supporters" it should never need, and upon the efforts of the publisher and his proper appreciation of the true value of his paper will depend whether his mail lists are filled with the names of customers or of supporters. Every publisher holds this matter in his own hands. Surely if his grocer, butcher and baker can appreciate their wares at their market value and insist on business principles governing their sale, the publisher, who is usually the most intelligent and acute of the four, can well do the same.

This matter of subscriptions may be divided into these heads:

1. The Field.
2. How to Fill It.
3. The Financial Aspect of the Subscription List.

I. THE FIELD.

It being understood that the subject of discussion is the country weekly newspaper, those published in large and small towns and villages, it is an easy matter to decisively designate the field of operations open to the publisher. First, his own town, then every section of his county or district which by reason of business or social relations is directly interested in and connected with the place of publication, and then any other portions of territory which by reason of proximity to or peculiar business relations with the place of publication is likely to afford subscribers. Cultivate diligently first the field near at hand, when that is covered extend operations. A compact territory well filled will be easier to handle and more attractive to advertisers than a scattered constituency with but a few names at each post office.

2. HOW TO FILL IT.

The success of any country weekly depends first on its available constituency and then on the enterprise of the publisher and the ability and directness with which he caters to his own district. It must be first and foremost a Home Newspaper; a newspaper in the sense that it faithfully records the doings and happenings of the district each week, giving the people the home news which they can get in no other paper, and a home or family paper in that it must each week contain reading matter of interest to every member of the many households where perhaps it is the only paper taken. Give special prominence to the district news. Give it each week a regular and specified place in

your paper. Remember that two-thirds of your subscribers are country people, and the news of their own locality is most interesting to them, then the news from other country districts, and last the town news. Do not allow the town affairs to crowd out the country and county news. Give proper attention, of course, to town affairs, but when brevity is necessary be brief in your town locals and spare the country news as much as possible from the blue pencil. To excel, then, as a local paper, it is necessary to secure from each section of your territory a regular and reliable news letter. Good correspondents can be secured, but it takes time and patience to find them out. In almost every locality a man or woman of standing will send in the local news each week or at least each fortnight, and will think the account well squared by receiving a copy of the paper free, and being supplied with stamped envelopes and stationery. But never appoint an unreliable correspondent. Leave a point uncovered for a year sooner than have a "smart Alex" make his little local Rome howl and your paper unpopular by his foolish witticisms disguised as news, and which your blue pencil skips because you are not intimately acquainted with the gossip of his neighbourhood. Do not despise the chronicling of the goings and comings of the little country village. Such things may seem small potatoes to you, but to the people mentioned they are of vast importance, and these are the people who pay their good money for your paper. By pleasing them you gain for your paper many good words and much popularity. Respect highly, then, the country correspondence as a means to success. Secure also reports of township councils, county councils, local boards of health, and publish the full returns of all municipal elections. The township clerk is a man to be made a friend of by every country publisher. He is a mine of local news which, well worked, will pan out very richly. Market reports from every market town are valuable and easily got. But, once begun, attend to them. See that they are reliable or do not publish them. The market prices in some places are the same the whole year around if some local papers are to be believed. The essence of these remarks then is, that a country paper should be a local newspaper in distinct reality. Home news should be its specialty, well put, fully reported, and always in greater quantity than your local rival. This is the battle field for the local paper. The abnormal development of the cheap city weekly has made the field of foreign news an impossible and unattainable one for the country paper to fill any more, the superior facilities of the city weekly for obtaining the world's news and the general way in which they are circulated have cut that field clear out of the calculations of the country paper, and it is policy now-a-days to leave these matters to the city weeklies, publishing only a summarized column of the world's doings; unless of course in case of unusual or very important matters; and filling the bulk of your news space with home news. This is the situation, and the country publisher who recognizes it is making the money. To handle local news in this complete manner requires tact, the ability to condense, a knowledge of your district, its public men, the principal likes, dislikes and local jealousies, and the exercise of constant watchfulness for news—in fact the cultivation of a nose for news. To successfully fill the bill it is necessary to be a news-

paper man and not merely a journeyman printer, and this fact is raising the standard of the average country weekly in Ontario very fast. As to editorial matter, let local matters have your best attention. Discuss such local matters as deserve that prominence editorially. In politics be fair, firm and consistent. Have a mind of your own withal, but do not week in and week out pour out rabid political tirades on the heads of your devoted readers. While never allowing your political faith to be misunderstood nor important public questions to remain without intelligent comment, let your handling of political subjects be marked for brevity, point and fairness. At election time be as red hot as you like, but at other times remember that nine-tenths of your readers will skip your editorials in favour of the home news, and if your overweening conceit has led you to attempt to settle in a series of laboured editorials the whole affairs of this earthly footstool they will find the home news very short of their expectations, and will be unfavourably impressed. Besides, you can wield far more influence by brief incisive editorials, because they will be read. For the ladies provide a few columns of matter to them peculiarly interesting, culled from standard women's periodicals. Make a feature of this page. It will pay to keep solid with the ladies. Another paying feature is a thoroughly interesting serial story. Keep one always going, and advertise a new one a considerable time in advance. A column or two of fresh and readable agricultural news is a taking thing, and with a few well-selected miscellaneous and humorous clippings and the condensed news of the week your paper will be complete.

Having thus arranged the matter to be published, see that it is printed in an attractive form. Make a special effort to have each separate department in a distinct and regular place in your paper each week. Beware of changes in make-up. Consider well the best arrangement, and when once fixed stick to it. Nothing pleases the subscriber more—next to finding it well filled—than to find his favourite department in the same place each week. Then pay most particular attention to the printing of your paper. Let it have each week the appearance of being the most carefully printed and best paying job you turn out of your office. Neat display in the advertising columns, neat headings in the reading columns, a regular style throughout the paper, good presswork always and good paper, and your newspaper will by its appearance attract attention, will prove a valuable advertisement of your printing business, and will please your subscribers' sense of neatness, beauty and order. This then is my idea of filling the field.

3. THE FINANCIAL ASPECT OF THE SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

The cash received each year for subscriptions to a country weekly should be within at least ten per cent. of the total face value of the list, and should cover the cost of issuing the paper. That is, a paper with only 1,000 subscribers must be smaller and cheaper to publish in every way than a paper having 2,000, provided the cash collections are as good in one case as the other. It is most important to know the precise cost of publishing your paper. If you have never figured this out do so at once. Keep track of every minute of time, every item of

material, every possible factor in the expense of publishing your paper from the time distribution begins on the last forms, until the same forms are laid on the stone the next week. Do this two, three or four weeks. Figure out the exact cost of every item for each week, adding a proper percentage for wear and tear, for proportion of rent, insurance, heat, light, etc., and strike an average for the four weeks. This should fairly give you the cost per week of issuing your paper. In many cases it will be found that with say 1,000 subscribers, it costs at least \$1,200 or \$1,300 to issue your paper, or in about that proportion, or perhaps worse. Three or four hundred subscribers will put the cost about even, for every printer knows that after the first thousand copies are run off, the cost of printing an additional 1,000 or 500 of any form is a very small proportion of the cost of the first run. So with a newspaper. Up to a certain point you will lose money on your subscription list. Find out that point, which is your cost of publication, and if your list does not pan out that much, get right out and hustle for more subscribers at once. If you have made your paper deserving of increased circulation you can get it, and once your available cash returns from subscriptions are over the financial point of the cost price, you can see profit in every new subscription that you secure. The subscription list should at least pay the cost of publishing the paper. The advertising should be so much clear profit.

In the collection of subscriptions the man who has begun right, or the man who begins right, will not find any great difficulty in putting his subscription list on a cash-in-advance basis. No pay no paper, is a good motto and easy to carry out, when your beginning is made that way, and if the goods are right and good value, there will be no trouble in securing in any district a very large proportion of your subscriptions in advance. You can afford to be just as independent as a man in any other business, and if you make your terms and rules and stick to them from the beginning, the question of arrears of subscriptions need never bother you. In all cases use a mailing machine, and let every subscriber find the date to which his paper is paid, in front of his name each week. A blue X in front of his name, if he is slow at the New Year, will generally bring him to time if he has been started in the right way.

But, suppose the paper to be dealt with is one with an aged and decrepit cash balance on the wrong side of the subscription list; one to which the subscribers have for years paid as they pleased, and are many of them in arrears. It is a question of education, the reforming of such a list. Instead of the pay-as-you-please plan you wish to adopt the cash-in-advance system. You cannot do it in one season, or if the list is a large one in even two completely, but you can do it pretty thoroughly in two seasons.

Early in the fall of the first season make an announcement of your intention, advertise it freely and fully and state your reasons for the change of policy, which if well put, will be recognized as very sensible and valid by the large majority of your subscribers. Having advertised the proposed change fully, enclose a subscription blank and addressed envelope in each subscriber's paper before December 1st, with an

accompanying invitation to use them properly. If you wish to make rapid progress in your work, offer a useful and attractive premium—a picture, a book, or one of the thousand appropriate things that can be had in bulk for a small cost, to those paying up all arrears and in advance for the next year, and to all new subscribers paying in advance before the New Year. You will be surprised at the way money will roll in, provided you have done plenty of advertising. About the 1st of January extend the time for giving the premiums for a month and again advertise well. At the end of January withdraw your premium offer. Teach your subscribers their first lesson—that they must comply with the terms if they would receive any extra benefit—as the premiums may be regarded. Then go over your lists. Mark off one or two old dead heads at each post-office who have been getting the paper for years and probably boasting about their neighbourhood that “they never have to pay for the Times.” Cut off a few of these at each office, and every other name you know will never realize you anything. This will make talk in each small locality, and will further educate your subscribers. Then for a time take in as many dollars as you can, and be satisfied. During the year fail not to remind slow subscribers that by delay they are incurring the extra rate. The next fall begin early your campaign. Offer all in arrears the \$1 rate provided they pay up and for a year in advance before the New Year. Again use a premium as an inducement on the same terms as before, thoroughly advertising it—covering specially well the township fairs. Issue special editions of your paper and mail to people all over your district as sample copies, enclosing subscription blanks, addressed envelopes and neat circulars, using late voters’ lists as a directory. Conduct an active energetic campaign. Boom for all you are worth. Hundreds of new subscribers will come in. Renew the premium offer for January as before if you like, but shut down then firm and fast. Then go over your list, notify every subscriber who is in arrears over one year that he must pay up before March 1st or be sued for the extra rate, and on that date strike off all such and sue for the extra rate of \$1.50. Do not be mealy mouthed about the matter at all. Your new subscribers will balance any losses by the striking off of slow-paying ones, and two-thirds of these will square up at once on receiving notice of suit and will pay for another year as well. They did not mean to beat you, but for years they had paid as they pleased, and nothing short of an earthquake or notice of suit being entered could arouse them to full understanding that you meant business. They like the paper and they will pay for it in advance ever after. The other third you can well afford to get rid of and get their arrears by process of law. Thus in two seasons you can very well clear up your subscription list, and by being firm, yet withal courteous and explanatory, you can bring your subscribers to time, and each year can well expect to have cash in hand by March 1st at least two-thirds of the face value of your list. On that date strike off the slow names and sue for arrears. In two or three years you will have a subscription list that is as valuable actually as it looks, and your subscribers will set greater store by your paper than they ever did before.

CLUBBING.

This matter was given me to deal with as a rider to the main subject. My opinion is briefly expressed in one word—don't. Throw all the alluring clubbing offers from city weeklies, story papers, farmer's journals, and magazines right into your waste paper basket. The very fact of your advertising another publication as being furnished with yours at a reduced rate cheapens and depreciates the value of your paper in the eyes of your own subscribers. All these offers are based on the idea of getting from you good advertising for nothing. If you are going to push and hustle, do so for your own paper and let others do the same if they want to invade your territory. A case in point will show the matter in its true light. Some years ago the publishers of one of the best and most widely circulated city weeklies in Ontario offered to club with the writer's paper at a rate which, from enquiry, is believed to be the lowest ever offered any country weekly, in fact so low that no cut in price was necessary on the home paper in order to make an unheard of combination offer. In a foolish moment the bait was swallowed and the deal was made. The clubbing offer was well advertised and canvassed. The result was the procuring of about 250 subscribers for the city weekly, of which number just about *thirty* were *new* subscribers to the local paper, and to get these fully twice the amount received in new subscriptions was expended by the home paper in advertising, book-keeping and general bother and worry. And next year when taking advantage of this expensive lesson, all clubbing offers were declined with thanks, it was necessary to spend about thirty minutes of valuable time in explaining to about 250 infuriated subscribers why and wherefore the city weekly would not be supplied with the home paper at the reduced rate, and as a matter of fact fully thirty of these subscribers were so hard to convince and so indignant that they stopped the home paper in order to get square, and thus nullified the meagre advantage gained the year before. This deal can be figured out by any country publisher, and he will see just how profitable it is to club with any other publication.

By all means leave clubbing alone. If your paper is worthy of success in its field it will go far better on its own merits than if you turn it into a booming agency for a city weekly and your office into a branch office of some other man's paper. Don't club anything except the slow pay subscriber and don't spare that medicine on him.

At the conclusion of above paper the question was spoken to by several members, and the respective methods followed by each stated.

THE QUESTION DRAWER.

On motion, Messrs. C. D. Barr, J. C. Jamieson, and J. B. Traves were appointed a committee to take charge of the Question Drawer.

At 12.30 the proceedings were, on motion, adjourned till 2 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Business was resumed at 2 p.m., President Dewart in the chair.

Mr. Jackson being now present introduced the subject first named on the programme with the following paper :—

APPRENTICESHIP.

BY L. G. JACKSON, OF THE "NEWMARKET ERA."

Gentlemen of the Press :

The subject assigned me to bring briefly before your notice is a very important one, when cheapness rather than proficiency seems to be the growing tendency. A good foundation is the most essential part of a building, if the structure is expected to weather the storms of time ; and a thorough and systematic apprenticeship is the beginning of success in any trade or profession ; but in no calling is this more apparent than in the Art Preservative.

It should be the aim of the Canadian Press Association to adopt such a system of apprenticeship that its effect would be to turn out qualified workmen—workmen who would be an honor to themselves, their profession and their country, and whose employment would be a source of pride and profit, thereby supplanting a practice which is deluging the country with professional botches.

Webster defines an apprentice as one who is bound by indentures to serve a mechanic or other person for a certain time with a view to *learn* his art, mystery or occupation, in which his master is bound to instruct him. What is an indenture ? It is a mutual agreement in writing between two or more parties, whereof each party has obligations to perform. Now we cannot imagine any system of apprenticeship where mutual responsibilities are unrecognized.

While most printers do not lose sight of the deplorable fact that there are to-day, professing to be well schooled in the art of printing, a vast multitude of incompetent workmen, they daily manifest an utter disregard for the future welfare of the apprentices who may be placed in their charge. It is quite true that a large number of our youth who set out to learn not only the printing art but other branches of industry appear to have been born without ambition, and a boy of this stamp is certainly in a wrong latitude in a printing office. We have no sympathy for indolent, lazy and indifferent apprentices, and if, after a reasonable time a boy manifests no particular desire to learn, he should be dismissed without further preliminary.

Quite a common course pursued is, to hire a boy when there is a rush of work, paying very little regard to the mental or educational equipment required of the future printer, and to put him at, and keep him for an indefinite time at whatever he can do with the least teaching. This is pernicious.

Earnest, conscientious, faithful work on the part of the employed, and a corresponding desire on the part of the employer to see his apprentices advance, would do more to bring about pleasant relations than all the trades' unions ever organized.

Our occupation is an art, but this truth is not learned until late in the life of most printers. How many boys, on the completion of their apprenticeship, are fitted to discharge the duties of a foreman? Echo answers, very few. "How can the increase of unskilled labor be stayed?" or in other words, "How long does it take to teach the art of printing in a general and efficient manner?" The rule adopted in the Mother Country is 7 years; in the United States it is almost universally 4 years; while in Canada it seems to be anywhere from 3 to 5 years. The Typographical Union, of Toronto, recognizes 5 years as the basis of journeyman labor. Now, with this diversity of periods of apprenticeship to the one trade is it any wonder that there should be friction constantly arising among the growing apprentices? After a young man has been on the case for a couple of years he thinks that he can "stick" nearly as much type as a "jour" and could make more money for himself somewhere else; carried away with this idea, he scans the daily papers and sees that every once in a while there is an opening for just that kind of compositor—or it may be that he comes down to the city and finds that "improvers" or "two-third" men get 20 cents per thousand, and that there is always a demand in Toronto for that class of labor. Any city office will tell you that the apprenticeship system is not a success because boys can so readily go from one office to another, and thus free themselves of apprenticeship restraint. It is, therefore, quite apparent that this state of things is detrimental to the honest apprentice and exercises a pernicious influence upon the trade. As an Association we should have a regulation to govern this important question, so that a recognized system would eventually prevail throughout Canada. That the five-year period is the most satisfactory is quite evident from the manner in which those who have taken such a course rise into prominence while running their chances among the army of printers upon the American continent.

From my own experience there is nothing so satisfactory to employee as the "Binding" business. The more an apprentice is shoved ahead, so long as his work is thorough from the beginning, the better it is for both—and a mutual desire on the part of each is fostered; but under the ordinary engagement, where nothing but the word of mouth stands between them, the apprentice is not permitted to advance with very great rapidity just for fear that he might take a notion to "dig out" before his time was up, and it would not do to let him know too much of the business under those circumstances. Then again the idea strikes the boy that he is not advancing and he tries to make himself obnoxious in order to get the "sack."

At a State convention, while advocating an apprenticeship law, so the *Inland Printer* records, a speaker was interrupted by a somewhat breezy youth with the remark:—"The boys of this country are smart enough to pick up their trade without selling their liberty." A gray-haired Englishman afterwards privately said to the speaker:—"That 'ere chap who talked so loud is a fair specimen of the fellows who pick

up their trade without instructions. His work is slop work, but if he was set to any other job, or went to a strange establishment, God pity him. I know what I am talking about for he works with me." Statistics prove that in the United States, positions of superintendents, master-mechanics or foremen, in an overwhelming majority of instances, are filled by mechanics of foreign birth; and they hold these positions not because they are Scotchmen, or Englishmen, or Canadians, but because they are proficient—thoroughly versed in and masters of their profession.

I might mention that I find it a good plan to hold out a liberal inducement for punctuality, proficiency, absence of profanity, politeness to all, and promptness in obeying orders, to those who complete their full term of apprenticeship.

I am well aware that some offices are small—run on a small capital—and cannot give the same general experience on newspaper, book and job printing, press-work, etc., as offices in larger towns and cities, and if their apprentices remained for five years they would not know any more about the trade than they did when the three years were expired; but what I contend in the latter case is, that such apprentices are not entitled to the title of "jour," and should not be allowed the emoluments of "jours" until after serving two years more in another office. The claim that incompetent boys must be accepted and paid for as competent men is a declaration to which we take exception.

In order that the introduction of this subject may be of service to the Association I would take great pleasure in moving the following resolution:—

"Resolved,—That this Association recognizes the apprenticeship term of 5 years as requisite to qualify for a journeyman, and calls upon all its members to duly observe the same; also that no member of this Association shall engage an 'improver' or 'two-third' without a certificate from his former employer to the effect that he has left his employ with consent."

Mr. Jackson concluded his paper by moving, That this Association recognizes the apprenticeship term of five years as requisite to qualify for a journeyman, and calls upon all its members to duly observe the same; also that no member of this Association shall engage an "improver" or "two-third" without a certificate from his former employer to the effect that he has left his employ with consent.

After some discussion of the question it was moved by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Barr, That this question be referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Climie, Traves, Somerville, Brierly, and mover and seconder, to report at the next annual meeting.—Carried.

The third topic for consideration, "Advertising Rates," was introduced by Mr. C. D. Barr.

This theme elicited considerable discussion on existing advertising methods, including the practices pursued by advertising agencies.

A desire being expressed for a standard advertising rate per thousand of circulation, it was moved by Mr. Barr, seconded by Mr. Jackson, That the question of formulating a scale of rates per 1,000 of circulation be referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Somerville, Jackson, Traves, Jamieson, Campbell, Shaanon, Hough, C. B. Robinson, to report at next annual meeting.—Carried.

Mr. J. B. Traves opened the next question with the following comprehensive and practical paper:—

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT.

BY MR. J. B. TRAVES, "TIMES," PORT HOPE, ONT.

The part assigned me on the programme embraces to some extent nearly all the features of the other subjects; but as they will be ably and exhaustively dealt with by the gentlemen who have them in charge, I will endeavour to confine my remarks purely to "business management," and even with this—as I understand it—I have merely to lay the subject before you in an elementary form, so that each point may be given such prominence as its importance merits, leaving the details to come out in the discussion to follow.

What I have seen of the "business management" in many printing offices, particularly in the country, is suggestive of the grossest carelessness. In many instances, if books are kept at all, they are flimsy in construction, and of so little value that, except to the party keeping them, they are as unintelligible as a scrap from the original tea chest. This is what we should endeavour to avoid, and I think I can demonstrate to you that at a small cost the affairs of any printing office can be kept in such a manner that the merest novice can be placed in charge of them, and accuracy assured.

ADVERTISING.

We will assume, to begin with, we are dealing with an advertiser who desires to make a contract for a quarter column advertisement. The one thing necessary is to have a fixed figure to give him, which should be based on a regular scale. My charge for one year would be \$25; 6 months, \$18; 3 months, \$12; 2 months, \$9.50; 1 month, \$7.50. These prices, of course, are for regular advertisers, and would not be accepted for legal or other transient advertising. These figures are reasonably low, and, I presume, not so high as many of you charge; but once my figure is given I rarely deviate from it, except under exceptional circumstances. I append herewith my card of rates, not particularly as being applicable to other papers, but as a basis from which any one can strike a scale of prices, which should, of course, be governed by their larger or smaller circulation.

A word of explanation may be necessary in regard to my rates for local notices. I have placed these intentionally high, as I prefer advertising to be done in its proper place in the advertising columns. Some parties, however, prefer a five line local to a quarter of a column advertisement, and it will be observed I carry my charges for that space very nearly to the quarter of a column rate. On receiving the copy of an advertisement, I either write the terms and the length of time it is to run on the face of it, or fill in the appended contract which I require the advertiser to sign.

It has struck me forcibly on several occasions that there is something radically wrong about the making of contracts for advertising. I have been frequently called upon by the representatives of large advertisers, who, on asking my rates, have expressed surprise, stating that they were from 25 to 50 per cent. higher than those of papers claiming double the circulation of my paper. On gently expressing incredulity the contracts have been shown me, and as I had already stated I believed these papers possessed a larger circulation than the *Times* I was placed in rather an awkward position. The man who travels throughout Canada, making advertising contracts, can show you some funny things in prices. I have nevertheless got \$40 for an advertisement that a paper claiming more than twice the circulation got only \$30 for, simply because I firmly refused to take a lower figure than I first asked, and because I felt convinced that my price was a reasonable one, and that the advertiser could not reach the people of Port Hope and surrounding townships in any other way for double the money. Lack of business method is the only reason I can assign for the papers I refer to accepting such low prices. Too many reason that because an advertisement comes from a distance they might as well take it at a low price, as the amount is so much clear gain, forgetting that by standing by their rates they would get a fair price, and that the advertiser would not pay even a very low rate if he did not expect to reap benefit from it. Another feature in this connection is the traveller, who, on his second visit to you to make a renewal of contract, tries to cut down the price, on the ground that sales had been too small to warrant paying so much again. The experience of other publishers, I presume, is like my own. It is usually patent medicine agents who make this complaint, and they are generally introducing a new article. Investigation has shown me that it is not the fault of the newspaper that sales have been small, but that the fault lay with the maker of the article. In the first place, they are usually trying to displace some article that has been in use for a long time, and which has an established sale; and in the second place they do not allow as large a discount as those already in possession of the field, so that the retailer will not bring forward a new article while he can possibly sell his customer the old, from the sale of which he derives a greater profit. Again, many articles placed on the market, which depend for their sale on newspaper advertising, are utterly worthless. People try them—find this out—and buy no more. In some cases the fault is in the advertisement, it is clumsily constructed, unattractive, and after being once read is so much dead matter. In one instance, one of my subscribers came and asked how much I would take and remove a certain advertisement in

my paper. Struck with the novelty of the proposition, made to some extent in jest, I pressed him for his reason for making such an offer, when he told me the advertisement annoyed him ; it had stared him in the face for three or four years every time he had opened the paper—it had been unchanged in all that time, and its ugly appearance and phraseology was offensive to him. I had frequently requested the advertiser to change the advertisement, or permit me to do so, but he was just as ugly as the advertisement, and replied as long as it suited him I need not complain or anybody else. When an agent says the advertisement has not done as much as he expected in sales, I generally succeed in making him understand that the fault either lies in the construction of it, in the article itself not being what it is represented, or that those selling it can make more by urging the sale of some other article on which his profit is greater, but I do not come down in my price.

A great deal of unfit advertising appears in many of our papers—filthy in construction and debasing in effect—which would not be accepted if presented in any other form. That such advertising can obtain a place at all in a respectable paper I attribute mainly to carelessness in the business management. This kind of advertising usually comes through an advertising agency, and the only question considered in regard to it is the space it will occupy and the price offered. The contents are not read by those in charge of the paper, and by this means the vilest kind of the most dangerous matter is spread before innocent children and weak-headed young people in each issue of the paper. One of the worst features of this advertising is that the more prominent the proprietor appears in church matters, and the more pretentious he is in his profession of religion, the more of this dirty stuff you will find in his paper. Take up any of the goody-good men's papers and see if I am not right ; but I do not accuse them of taking this advertising because they can make money out of it—no, no, not by any means,—it is simply "bad management" in the business affairs of the office. Make it a point never to insert at any price an advertisement you would not read and explain to your own children, and the class of advertising referred to will disappear.

ADVERTISING CONTRACT.

(Retained by Office.)

PORT HOPE,.....ISS..

.....hereby agree to take a space of.....
column in THE PORT HOPE DAILY (or weekly, or both) TIMES for.....
months, at the rate of.....
per..... Payment for same to be made..... Matter may be changed
weekly if desired.

Extra space to be given at any time in Daily at same rate, but for no less period than One Week.

ADVERTISING CONTRACT.

(Given Advertiser.)

PORT HOPE,.....188..

I hereby agree to give.....
column space in THE PORT HOPE DAILY (or weekly or both)
 TIMES formonths, at the rate of
per..... Payment to be made
 Matter may be changed weekly, if desired.

J. B. TRAYE.

N. B.—Extra space may be had at any time in Daily, for not less than One
 Week, at the same rate.

J. B. T.

* ADVERTISING RATES OF THE PORT HOPE TIMES.

PORT HOPE, ONT.

One Column,....one year.....	245	lines.....	\$30 00
do six months.....	245	do	50 00
do three "	245	do	30 00
do two "	245	do	25 00
do one "	245	do	20 00
Half Columnone year.....	122	do	40 00
do six months.....	122	do	27 00
do three "	122	do	20 00
do two "	122	do	15 00
do one "	122	do	12 00
Quarter Column one year.....	61	do	25 00
do six months.....	61	do	18 00
do three "	61	do	12 00
do two "	61	do	9 50
do one "	61	do	7 50
Eighth Column ..one year.....	30	do	18 00
do six months.....	30	do	12 00
do three "	30	do	8 00
do two "	30	do	6 00
do one "	30	do	5 00
25 lines 1 year.....	\$16 00	15 lines 3 months.....	\$4 00
25 do 6 months.....	10 00	15 do 1 "	2 50
25 do 3 "	6 00	10 do 1 year.....	8 00
25 do 1 "	4 50	10 do 6 months.....	5 00
20 do 1 year.....	12 00	10 do 3 "	3 50
20 do 6 months.....	7 50	10 do 1 "	1 50
20 do 3 "	5 00	5 do 1 year.....	5 00
20 do 1 "	3 50	5 do 6 months.....	3 50
15 do 1 year.....	10 00	5 do 3 "	2 50
15 do 6 months.....	6 00	5 do 1 "	1 00

The above are contract rates, and apply only to regular business of advertisers.
 Transient advertisements, Ten Cents a line first insertion, and Three Cents a line
 each subsequent insertion.

* The same scale is used for both Daily and Weekly.

LIST OF PRICES FOR LOCALS.

SPACE.	1 YEAR.	6 MOS.	3 MOS.	SPACE.	1 YEAR.	6 MOS.	3 MOS.
1 line	\$ 5 20	\$ 3 00	\$ 2 00	8 lines ..	\$31 50	\$18 00	\$11 00
2 lines	10 00	6 00	4 00	9 lines ..	34 50	20 00	12 00
3 lines	14 00	8 00	5 50	10 lines ..	37 00	22 00	13 00
4 lines	18 00	10 00	7 00	15 lines ..	48 00	30 00	17 50
5 lines	20 00	12 00	8 00	20 lines ..	58 00	35 00	20 00
6 lines	24 00	14 00	9 00	25 lines ..	68 00	40 00	25 00
7 lines	28 00	16 00	10 00	Each additional 5 lines, \$10 per annum.			

Transient locals 10c. a line each insertion. No item inserted for less than 50 cents. The above is measured by a scale of Nonpareil.

[No deviation from the above to any one.]

J. B. TRAYES, Editor and Proprietor.

JOB PRINTING.

It is just as necessary to have a scale for staple classes of Job Work as for advertising, but as prices vary so widely in different localities, according to the competition existing, I will not impose upon you the scale used in my office, but I would urge upon all the necessity of having, in handy form, the average cost of work generally used, as the basis upon which a reliable figure can be given off-hand, without the danger of loss, no matter what the competition may be; feeling sure that if any one bids under you he will do so at a loss, for when work is done under cost I presume you would prefer to let the "other fellow" have it. I have found this method invaluable, and as the cost figure can be kept in cypher, it is a protection from possible loss.

THE PRINTING OFFICE.

The first necessity is a good foreman, with absolute control of the hands, whether they consist of himself and only one other or twenty. This is another matter in which a great many offices are loosely conducted. The foreman has no authority, and everyone does as he pleases,—a great deal of time is fooled away when your back is turned, and there is a general scramble to put on a show of doing something when you put in an appearance. Give your employees to understand that they have to obey the foreman's orders, and he will be treated with respect, his orders complied with, your work done better, and with but little time wasted. It has been my custom during the past twenty-five years to make my foreman responsible for every thing done in the printing office, with the result that I have been saved a great deal of trouble and annoyance. If a man wishes to get away for a day, and the foreman tells him he cannot spare him, the man knows it would be no use coming to me, as I would merely refer him back to the foreman, whose decision in all such matters is final. The foreman should also have the power to engage and discharge hands, as by his doing so, if the situation is valued, the authority by which it is retained is constantly in sight, and the men know that their work and actions are at all times under supervision. These are the only conditions upon which the services of a good foreman can be retained.

In this connection, it may not be out of place to give an instance which occurred in my own office in the earlier days of my proprietorship. I had taken a contract which necessitated the employment of some twenty men, and had succeeded in getting together a fine lot of workers. The foreman at this time was a young man who had served his apprenticeship under me, and whom some of the men seemed to think they need not pay very strict attention to. He had come to me several times to complain of one man who systematically disobeyed orders given him, though a good workman. I suggested to the foreman that he should discharge the man, which he finally did, handing him his time with an order for the amount of wages due, and telling him he would receive his money by going into the business office. The man came laughingly to me with the slip, as if it were a good joke, and told me he had been discharged. I told him I was sorry, but asked him nothing of the circumstances; and when I tendered him the amount due him he exclaimed rather seriously, "You don't mean to have me go do you?" I told him unless he carried out the orders of the foreman he was of no use to me, as his example in the office was a bad one for all concerned. He then asked me to put him back in his place, and he would do as he was told in the future. I declined absolutely to interfere, telling him that if he desired to go back to work in my office he must apply to the foreman, and if he saw fit to employ him again, he was at perfect liberty to do so. He did apply—was given his frame again—and worked for me for several years after, and made one of my most faithful hands. I have had no trouble in this direction since, and I have still the same foreman in my office at this time.

Much of the bad management of the practical part of a paper is due to the foreman, who should be looked after in regard to the "make-up." In folio papers particularly is this necessary, or the paper is liable to have the same appearance week after week, and year after year. The advertisements should be changed about frequently, broken letters removed, and the inside pages kept as neat in appearance as the editorial page. By the liberal use of bold face letter, and avoiding very large type, a neat appearance can be given to every page, each of which should contain as nearly as possible an equal quantity of reading matter and advertisements.

The presses should be carefully looked after and kept clean. If wiped over with oil waste once or twice a week they can be kept as bright as new for many years and give better satisfaction than they would if neglected.

The rollers, too, are a very important factor in the production of good work. You may have the finest "lay-out" of type, etc., in the world, the best presses, the most capable workmen, and use the most expensive inks, but you cannot print a job nicely with poor rollers. You need not necessarily use expensive composition, but you should make new rollers or recast them frequently. All the composition used in my office is made on the premises at a cost of about 13 cents a pound, and it serves the same purpose and gives as good service as composition I have bought at from 30 to 50 cents.

Composition on the paper should be done by piece-work, as it has been my experience that you can keep good men longer by paying them

by the piece than you can by paying them weekly wages. It is of course impossible to pay the same price in a small place as in the cities, where extra hands can be procured in any number at an hour's notice. A country office has to get along with a certain number of hands whether busy or otherwise, and any unusual press of work has to be got out by over time. Plain composition can be more economically done by the piece, and with greater satisfaction to the office than on time. But a scale of job rates cannot be made to work, or at least I have never seen one. Job work must necessarily be done on time, and when I have to take the news hands for that purpose they invariably paid by the hour.

The job type requires careful looking after. Care has to be taken of many kinds of type both in handling by the compositor and the pressman, as some fonts are easily spoiled by the breaking or bruising of letters. A fixed rule should be observed to keep spaces out of the job cases, which should be carefully looked over frequently by the foreman.

THE BOOKS.

The system of book-keeping may be reduced to a very simple process, and so kept that anyone after a brief examination can understand them without much study.

1. *The Job Book* (see A).—The job book contains the name, date, ledger folio, cost and the charge in properly ruled columns. Keeping the cost of a job is very little trouble when one gets used to it, and the information derived from it is invaluable, saving time and trouble. The same job in course of years makes its appearance in the office at irregular intervals, and an estimate asked for it. You can turn to your ledger, and getting the job book page you see what the cost was, and can give an accurate figure. The customer often claims that a greater number was done on the previous occasion, or that the price was lower, but you point out the old entry to him, and there is an end of the discussion on the subject. The cost column being in cypher, you can hand your book for inspection without making your customer much the wiser beyond giving him unquestionable evidence of what was paid on the previous occasion, and the quantity. For a cypher any word containing ten letters of the alphabet may be selected.

2. *The Advertising Book* (see B and C) can be easily kept and readily referred to. A slight difference will be observed in the headings of the daily and weekly advertising book, many advertisers preferring in the case of the daily to pay monthly.

3. *The Subscription Book* (see D) generally gives the most trouble, and the chief difficulty I found, until I adopted my present system, was to find out when a subscriber made his previous payment. As an instance, say a subscriber calls to pay his subscription, he is two or three years in arrears, and disputes the accuracy of the date you charge him from, claiming he paid you more than you gave him credit for. It is of importance to be able to trace the last payment, which my plan shows without trouble. Over the date to which the subscription is marked paid I insert the cash book page, which can be turned to in a moment, and you get the amount paid on the previous occasion and the

date. This must be the correct sum, because your cash balanced on the day the payment was made. The system of entry is so simple that a brief examination of the form marked "D" will be sufficient to enable anyone to correctly understand it. When the first cash book is filled up, the second one should be marked "B," and so on. For instance, John Jones, paid to January 1st, '90, would have marked over it "C.B. C. 125," which means that the amount and the date will be found on page 125 of cash book C.

4. *The Cash Book* (see E).—The cash book in use in my office is a common blotter or day book, and every cent coming in or going out is shown in it, and for what purpose. The entries on form E are so plain that they require no explanation.

5. *The Ledger* (see F) shows the whole business.

Some years ago I had two men and a boy, who devoted most of their time to keeping my books, and the system was so complicated that I could rarely find time to study up the intricacies of an account to enable me to make it out myself, and I usually gave it up in disgust, and handed the job over to one of them to do it for me. There was an advertising blotter, an advertising journal, and a job journal; an advertising ledger and a job ledger, and quite a number of other books. Now, everything goes into the one ledger, and direct from the original entry in A, B and C, as will be seen from an examination of F.

6. *The Monthly Cash Book* (see G) is of no material benefit, except that it classifies the business done, and will show you at a glance what cash has been received in the different branches of the business in the course of any particular month or year. I am curious enough to want to compare one month with another, and this book shows exactly where any falling off or increase has taken place.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The attractive features of a newspaper of course are its editorial and news columns, but the "business end" is decidedly in the advertising, and as I am dealing with my subject, having mainly in view country printing offices, in which the business is too small to permit of its having separate departments, and is generally managed by one man—in most cases the proprietor—I have tried to be as brief as possible in dealing with the business management, which possesses so many features.

The editorials of a local paper should be short, crisp and pointed,—in length from one quarter to half a column; and only in exceptional cases should this rule be deviated from. If a subject cannot be got through with in that space make two or three separate articles of it, under different headings. Three articles occupying a column and a half will be read by one hundred when a dozen will not look at a single article of that length. The large daily papers so thoroughly write a subject of general importance threadbare before the country weekly press have an opportunity of expressing an opinion, that long articles are not appreciated, owing to the difficulty of finding an original idea to bring forward or to say anything that has not been better said

before. The country press have the advantage, however, of the city papers in discussing matters of local interest, and I have followed the rule for years that I would drop a column of editorial any time for a "stick-full" of good live "local." Let people understand that the manager of a paper thoroughly appreciates the importance of local matters over general subjects, and there is no difficulty in circulating the paper. Reports of local meetings, containing everything worth recording, are much more attractive than a long article on a subject that the reader knows little or nothing about. Every paper, no matter how small, has a field of its own for such subjects, and if the paper does its work well, the people will theirs. Skill in the management of the reading columns will be sure to attract advertisements, for the latter depend upon the attractiveness of the former for their chances of being read.

I am afraid I have taken up more of your time than my subject warrants, certainly more than I intended to when I began. I am aware that to many I have said little or nothing that is new,—but my remarks were intended particularly for those lacking experience. My thirty-five years' experience in the business has given me a pretty thorough knowledge of printing in all its branches, and as the first seven years were passed as an indentured apprentice in a daily office, I have been brought face to face with nearly every class of work and a very considerable variety of machinery, from the lumbering hand-press and threshing-machine-like "Northrup" to the perfect presses of the present day. I know I have omitted much that would be of service to the younger members of the Association, and that I owe an apology to the older men whose experience and trials must have been similar to my own.

"A."

PORT HOPE TIMES JOB BOOK.

PAGE 45S

DATE	NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	NAME AND ADDRESS	FOLIO	COST	CHARGE
1889, Feb. 1		100 D.D. Posters, "Canadian Press Association waking up to business."	W. R. Climie, Sec'y C. P. A., Bowmanville.	402	a lb	\$5 00
" 2		100 Letter circulars for meeting.	"	"	c ab	2 00
" 4		500 Cards.	"	"	m bn	6 00
" 19		1,000 1-16 Dodgers, great sale.	John Jones.	C.B.C. 391	on	2 00

"B."

ADVERTISING BOOK OF THE PORT HOPE DAILY TIMES.

DATE OF ISSUE	NO. AND VOLUME	NAME OF PARTY ADVERTISING	DESCRIPTION OF ADVERTISEMENT.	SPACE	INS.	STOPP'D	PRICE, AS AGREEMENT
1889, Feb. 1	55 x 12	W. R. Climie. John Smith.	Meeting C.P.A. Local Notice.	30 20	1 yr 1		\$ 24 00

ADVERTISING BOOK.—Continued.

AMOUNT	FOLIO	PAID TO	PAID TO	PAID TO	PAID TO	REMARKS.
\$24 00	402	Mar. 1, '89.	Apr. 1, '89.	May 1, '89.	June 1, '89.	Render acc. monthly.
1 00		Paid.				

"C."

ADVERTISING BOOK OF THE PORT HOPE WEEKLY TIMES.

DATE OF ISSUE	NO. AND VOL. OF TIMES.	NAME OF PARTY ADVERTISING.	NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF • ADVERTISEMENT
Feb. 1	9 x 28	W. R. Climie.	Meeting Canadian Press Association.
"	"	Robt. Brown.	Dry Goods and Groceries.

ADVERTISING BOOK.—Continued.

NO. OF LINES	NO. OF INSERTIONS	AMOUNT CHARGED	WHEN OUT	SPECIAL AGREEMENT IF ANY.	LEDGER FOLIO	REMARKS
20	3	\$ 3 20	Feb. 22	Regular Rates.	402	Send account promptly.
1/2 col.	1 year.	40 00		Change monthly. Pay quarterly.	325	

"D."

PORT HOPE TIMES SUBSCRIPTION BOOK.

COM.	NAME	PAID TO	PAID TO	PAID TO	PAID TO	STOPP'D	DUE	REM.
Jan. 1, '80	W.R. Climie	C.B.A. 25 Jan. 1, '81	C.B.B. 120 Jan. 1, '82	C.B.C. 200 Jan. 1, '83	C.B.D. 78 Jan. 1, '84	Jan. 1, '89	\$4 00	Gone west.
Jan. 1, '88	Jno. Jones.	C.B.C. 125 Jan. 1, '90						

"E."

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CASH.

CR.

1889 Feb. 10	W. R. Climie, Account.....	L. 402	\$ 24 20
	John Jones, Job	J. 458	2 00
	John Jones, Times, P. H.....	S. 830	1 00
	John Smith, Local	D.A. 392	1 00
	Robt. Brown, Account	W.A. 325	40 00

L.—Ledger ; J.—Job Book ; S.—Sub. Book ; D.A.—Daily Adv. Book ; W.A.—Weekly Adv. Book.

"F."

W. R. CLIMIE,

Secretary Canadian Press Association, Bowmanville.

1889. Feb. 1	To 100 D.D. Posters.	J. 458	\$5 00	Feb. 10	By Cash.....	C.B.C. 392	\$24 20
" 2	" 100 Circulars	"	2 00				
" 4	" 500 Cards.....	"	6 00				
" 1	" Advt. Meeting, W. 2- C.P.A.....	356	3 20				
" 1	" Advt. Meeting, C. P.A., 4 months.	D.A. 392	8 00				
			\$24 20				\$24 20

Discussion on the above subject being continued brought out several useful suggestions on office management.

The President being called away the chair was taken by Vice-President Somerville.

Mr. Creighton being absent the fifth topic was dropped from the list, and Mr. H. P. Moore introduced the sixth in the following practical manner:—

JOB PRINTING—WHAT IS A FAIR PROFIT?

BY H. P. MOORE, "FREE PRESS," ACTON.

The subject allotted to me for this occasion is one so very comprehensive that were I to attempt to launch out into details with the object of covering the many points which are naturally embraced under the subject of Job Printing, the time allowed for both introduction and discussion would be exhausted. I will therefore devote but little attention to the general topic, and confine my remarks more particularly to that point definitely named: "What is a fair profit?"

It may, perhaps, be deemed unnecessary to remark that Job Printing is a distinct business of itself and should be conducted upon business principles; but there exists so much evidence on all sides that it is treated as if it were a boyish amusement, rather than a business requiring careful, practical superintendence, that I make no excuse for thus referring to it.

No man should engage in the printing business without possessing a determination to make it successful. If success is to be attained the first qualification is intelligence, and no job printer can be successful without this essential. Ignorance is nowhere more fatal to success. There must be a thorough knowledge of the business in all its details. It will not suffice either for the knowledge to be confined to the foreman and employees, for the proprietor himself must be a practical, observant worker, whose well-directed energy and oversight alone can accomplish desired results.

(Of course it will be understood that my remarks are intended to refer to the ordinary job printing offices, doing a general business, the object of whose proprietors is to make money and build up a reputation by honest personal toil. I have no advice for those moneyed corporations which establish printing businesses with invested capital reaching up into the tens of thousands, whose aim seems to be to corner the best classes of printing, often at ridiculously low prices, and to squeeze out the honest, earnest workers of the country whose businesses are operated in conjunction with local newspapers which endeavour to satisfactorily represent the best interests of the community from whence these corporations secure their orders. Our Association embraces none of these. I take it that we are all workers.)

Method in management is also a very necessary feature. Where an office is systematically conducted the public soon become aware of the fact and a confidence of value to the business is engendered. This applies not only to the internal arrangement and operation of the office in its various departments, but should include attention to the minutest

detail of every customer's order. The importance of this should secure for the matter more consideration than is generally accorded it. "Order is heaven's first law," and vigilant and conscientious oversight is the price of profit and success.

To be successful demands also a close study of the wants of the public, and an every-day effort to keep legitimately abreast of the times. The spirit of improvement and advancement should possess all who make their living at printing. We should never hesitate to take a step forward when we are sure of the ground on which we are stepping. This age, however, calls too loudly for practical results to allow of very much for experimenting. Practical forms, rules and appliances must be adopted, and then may be added to as necessity demands, or as knowledge or convenience makes desirable. When some improvement suggests itself to a good workman, after being carefully considered and adopted in practice it is almost sure to be a benefit and addition to real knowledge, and will be well worthy the consideration of his associates and neighbours in the same business. There are but few, even among those who are recognized as first-class workmen, who will take the chances of obtaining satisfactory results by following their own ideas all the time to the entire exclusion of suggestions from others.

There seems no likelihood of arriving at a very speedy end to the chapter of improvement in printing; and, speaking for myself, I am glad that it is thus. It is an evidence of a growing desire on the part of those interested in the business to see it more worthily filling the exalted position for which it was surely destined. Newness, however, should not be the sole idea. A new thing without merit is worse than an old thing worn thread-bare.

But while advancement is the order of the day universally, the work executed should pay a fair profit, and estimates should in all cases be intelligently made. It matters little how well-appointed an office may be, there will be no gains in it unless the proprietor, counting the cost carefully, makes sure that every job shall pay a reasonable profit. Some apparently act upon the principle that it is their bounden duty to take work at any price that will keep it from a competitor, no matter whether it pays or not; with the idea that perhaps they can save something by giving short numbers, counting in imperfect copies, using very common ink, etc. The style is of no consequence to them. Let others improve the typographical art if they choose, but they must have the work competed for.

The *Employing Printer* of St. Paul, a short-lived, though valuable journal to the craft, advises thus:—No printer should guess at the value of work. Guessing is demoralizing to your customer and to yourself. To your customer because he may think you are as likely to guess a dollar or two higher than value; to yourself because you are more liable to get below the real value of your work. And if you make one or two guesses daily, losing a dollar or two on each guess, by adding these losses together they may represent three or four hundred dollars in a year.

A man's own judgment may be very good as to what he can do, but it should be borne in mind that he is not always doing all the work himself, and again, if he is giving figures to a customer the customer is

not supposed to know the real value of the work and will be better satisfied if a systematic estimate of the value of the job is tendered.

I suppose every job printer has his own ideas as to what method of estimating should be adopted. Mr. George D. Barnard, of St. Louis, says:—"Many of us have been in the habit of calculating a profit on each item as the figuring is being accomplished. For instance, some of us would say:—

The paper in this job is worth	\$1 25
Composition is worth	50
Press work is worth.....	50
Total.....	\$2 25

which amount would be charged the customer. Now, this is not the correct way, as you will see after you have gone over your books and found the exact per cent. the cost of doing business amounts to. The figures should be about as follows:—

Paper, actual cost.....	\$0 85
Composition, actual cost.....	40
Press work, actual cost.....	35
	\$1 60
Cost of doing business, say 25 per cent.....	40
Total cost	\$2 00
Add for profit, say 25 per cent.....	50
Amount to charge	\$2 50

By this method there is a gain of 25 cents, which, he says, I believe to be the correct method, and, if adopted, we would find profitable.

My own experience convinces me that a reliable estimate for job work may be arrived at as follows:—To the items of paper, presswork, etc., add for rent and expenses and interest on your investment in type, presses, etc., on each job, twenty per cent. This will give you about the actual cost. Now, if you want a profit, and that is what most of us are after, add one-third to the total, and in some cases one-half. In pursuing this course a fair remuneration will be received, but no more than we are justly entitled to. Upon such a basis we will find ourselves generally able to give adequate support to employees, replenish worn out machinery and type, meet the tax collector, pay for repairs, insurance, ink, rent, light, fuel, accidents, bad debts and other expenses.

All is not profit that we seem to gain on work and there are so many little expenses to be considered that after years of hard work and constant expenditures to keep up the business we may each find ourselves with an office representing a great deal of money, but with material largely worn out and ourselves in the same condition.

A printer of long experience says it is claimed the price obtained by the job printer for his work is low. Well, where is the cause for such a state of things? The trouble lies in his estimating too low and securing inadequate remuneration for labor performed. But, it is

stated, the customer will not pay a fair price for his printing. I say, demand it; and if the customer is not satisfied refuse to accept his orders. The printer is mistaken in his supposition that he will lose by the action. The class of printers that demand a fair remuneration and produce first-class work are the printers all over the world who are succeeding. This fact has been proved by personal observation. There are customers who are grinders, and who will accept the toil and produce of the printer, if occasion should offer, for a mere song, smile at the transaction, and think the printer a fool. I know it is a difficult task to make most customers realize the expense of fancy composition, the time consumed in curving and arranging lines and the manipulation of combination borders. If they object to the expense of this class of work give them a plain job at a paying price and make them judge of the difference in display and the cost.

I have endeavoured to outline briefly what I regard as some of the features necessary to secure success in job printing, and also to add my humble quota as a member of the Canadian Press Association in the effort to render its sessions of practical benefit and general interest.

In the discussion which ensued on the above question, the demoralizing effect on fair prices throughout the Province arising from the drumming of "tramps" sent out by city houses was strongly condemned.

QUESTION DRAWER.

Mr. Barr, from the committee, gave verbal answers to several of the queries submitted.

DUTY ON PLATE MATTER.

The question of duty on plate matter coming in from the United States was discussed at considerable length, and it was moved by Mr. H. J. Snelgrove, seconded by Mr. C. B. Robinson, That the question of duty on plate matter be referred to the Executive Committee, with instructions to oppose any increase in duty on newspaper plate.—Carried.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Communications were read from Revs. Manly Benson and W. H. Withrow, inviting the Association to hold its next annual meeting at Grimsby Park; also one from Lewis C. Peake, a similar invitation for the Canadian Chatauqua, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

These communications were, on motion, received and filed, the Association not being prepared at present to fix the next place of meeting.

THE SUMMER TRIP.

On motion the Secretary was instructed to endeavour to arrange for an Association trip to British Columbia via Canadian Pacific Railway.

Adjourned till 7 p.m.

EVENING SESSION.

Business was resumed at 7 p.m., President Dewart presiding.

The seventh subject on the programme was introduced verbally by Mr. A. F. Campbell.

The practice followed by some wholesale houses who destroy local trade by retailing throughout the Province at about wholesale rates was unmistakably censured.

POSTAGE ON NEWSPAPERS.

It being reported that the Dominion Government purposed re-imposing postage on weekly newspapers the matter was discussed and it was moved by Mr. J. B. Traves, seconded by Mr. W. J. Watson, That this Association desires to call the attention of the Postmaster General to the fact that a number of private publications, of the nature of advertising sheets, are being passed through the mails free of postage, and that it would suggest as a remedy that newspapers, before being entitled to such free postage, be required by the Department to register after the nature of the Copyright Act; and further, that such publication shall not be entitled to free postage until official recognition has been obtained from the Post Office Department, and the postmaster where such publication is issued has been notified to that effect.—Carried.

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION.

Mr. Roy V. Somerville gave notice that he would, at next annual meeting of the Association move to amend the Constitution as follows:—

"That all applications for membership be hereafter made on a blank form which shall be prepared and approved by the Executive Committee, the applicant to sign the same, and be recommended by two members of the Association who shall also sign the application, which, with a copy of the applicant's paper, or that with which he is connected, shall be forwarded to the Secretary, who will submit the same to the Executive Committee, upon the approval of which the

Secretary be empowered to issue a certificate of membership. No certificate of membership to be issued either to reporters or full members until this procedure shall have been fully carried out.

"That on and after the date of the annual meeting, or the expiration of the current year, 1889, (as the Association may determine), no honorary member be entitled to any of the privileges in regard to reduced railway fares, either regularly during the year or in the annual excursion, it being the sense of this Association that active members only should enjoy these privileges."

THE LAW OF LIBEL.

Sections of a carefully prepared treatise on the law of libel, as it directly affects the publishers of newspapers, were read by the author, Mr. John King, M.A., Barrister, of Berlin, an honorary member of the Association, and at the urgent request of the meeting the reader selected the following extracts for publication in this connection:—

THE AMENDED CRIMINAL LAW OF LIBEL.

BY JOHN KING, M.A.

The latest amendments of the law of libel affecting newspaper publishers in Canada are contained in a short Act of the Dominion Legislature, passed 22nd May, 1888 (51 Vic. chap. 44). It is entitled "An Act further to amend 'The Criminal Procedure Act,'" and makes several important changes in regard to criminal prosecutions for libel. Before discussing these it may be premised that a libel, either as a civil injury or a criminal offence, is any defamatory publication in printing, writing, signs or pictures, which exposes a person to hatred, contempt or ridicule, which tends to injure him in his office, profession, trade or business, or causes him to be shunned or avoided by his neighbours. Everything printed or written, which reflects on the character of another, and is published without just cause or excuse, is a libel, whatever the intention may have been. The words need not necessarily impute disgraceful conduct to a person; it is sufficient if they render him contemptible or ridiculous; and any caricature, or scandalous painting or effigy, will constitute a libel quite as much as anything printed or written. As to what is libellous, in the criminal sense, it may be said that, wherever an action will lie, without laying special damage, an indictment will also lie. So also, wherever an action will lie for verbal slander, without laying special damage, an indictment will lie for the same words if reduced to writing and published. But the similitude is not complete between libels indictable and actionable. The criminal remedy is more extensive than the civil

remedy; and, therefore, there are cases in which a libel may be indictable though not actionable. At common law, *e.g.*—that is the unwritten as distinguished from the statutory law—it is a misdemeanour to publish defamatory words of a deceased person, if it be alleged and proved that this was done to bring contempt on the deceased's surviving family and relatives. But an action would not lie in such a case for want of a proper plaintiff who could aver that *he* had been defamed.

The old common law regards libel as a crime on the technical ground of its tendency to disturb the public peace, but in reality because the attack on reputation is so flagrant a private injury as to amount to a public wrong. The evil done is so extensive, and the example set so pernicious, that it is desirable that libel should be repressed for the public good. A civil action would have no terrors in some cases, especially if the wrong doer were penniless, while the tendency of the wrong is to arouse angry passion, provoke revenge and thus endanger the peace of society. There are several remedies open to the person libelled. He may bring his action for damages, or prefer an indictment, or, by leave of the court, a criminal information, or he may both indict and sue for damages. But although, in strict law, the injured party has three modes of redress, *viz.*: by criminal information, indictment, and civil action, he practically has to elect between the three. If he were to take both criminal and civil proceedings simultaneously, a judge would stay one or the other. Strictly, if he means to take both, he should first proceed criminally. An action for damages for a libel, for which a defendant had been either acquitted or convicted, would be a hopeless undertaking. And so would a criminal prosecution after an action; in fact, no civil action can be brought after a successful criminal information. Criminal proceedings may be taken either at common law, or under the Dominion Act and either by indictment, after a preliminary investigation before a magistrate, or by criminal information. Criminal informations, however, are only granted in urgent cases where great public mischief may ensue, or where the libel is of such a grave nature as to call for this extraordinary interposition of the Court. The late Hon. Geo. Brown, it may be remembered, was proceeded against in this way for an alleged libel in the *Globe* newspaper on Mr. Justice (now Sir) Adam Wilson, but the court being equally divided in its judgment, the proceedings fell to the ground. In a later case in Manitoba, the *Queen v. Biggs*, it was held that a criminal information for libel will not be granted except in case of a libel on a person in authority, and in respect of duties pertaining to his office. Where, therefore, a libel was directed against M., who was at the time Attorney-General, but alleged improper conduct on his part when he was a judge, an information was refused. This proceeding by information, in the first instance, is justly described as "extraordinary," because it supersedes the office of the grand jury, and the party charged is called upon to plead, on the mere filing of the information with permission of the court, instead of the preliminary finding of a bill by the grand inquest of the county. It will thus be seen that all criminal proceedings for libel assume that the offence is against the State rather than

the individual—although the individual may set the law in motion—and that the culprit should be punished as a State offender.

There is no method now, as there once was, of preventing a libel; there is, in a word, no censorship of the press. Any journalist is free to write and publish whatever he chooses of another, subject only to this, that he must take the consequences should a jury deem his publication defamatory. This is what is meant by "the liberty of the press." In the famous Dean of St. Asaph's case, Lord Mansfield defined this liberty as consisting "in printing without any previous license, subject to the consequences of law." Another eminent English judge defined it as the liberty of any man to "publish anything which twelve of his countrymen think is not blameable." It is a liberty which is practically unlimited, for ever since the passing of Fox's Libel Act, 32 Geo. III., chap. 60, the English press, and the press of the Greater Britain beyond the seas, has been the freest in the world.

Under the criminal law of Canada, every one who maliciously publishes a defamatory libel is guilty of a misdemeanour, and liable to a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars, or to imprisonment not exceeding one year, or to both. If he publishes a libel, "knowing it to be false," the fine may not exceed four hundred dollars, and the imprisonment not to exceed two years; or there may be the double penalty, as in the other case. A malicious publication is simply a publication without lawful excuse, and it is one for which the writer, printer and publisher are each and all liable to prosecution.

The defendant's usual plea is, Not Guilty, but he may also plead that the defamatory matter is true, and that it was published for the public benefit. This is called a plea of justification, and, without this plea, the truth of the matters charged cannot be inquired into. If, after such a plea, the defendant is convicted, the court, in passing sentence, may consider whether the guilt of the defendant is aggravated or mitigated by the evidence given on the plea. It is also a good defence that the publication was made without the defendant's authority, consent, or knowledge, and that it did not arise from want of due care and caution on his part. The defendant may also show that the alleged libel was privileged by reason of the occasion of its publication, and, unless the privilege be absolute, it may be rebutted by evidence of malice precisely as in civil cases. These are the usual defences set up in criminal prosecutions. It may be remarked that, in the case of an indictment, at the instance of a private prosecutor, costs may be awarded; these usually follow the judgment; whatever that may be, and are given to the successful party. The costs are taxed, and may be recovered by warrant of distress, or by an action as for an ordinary debt. All these considerations as to the law and practice generally in criminal prosecutions for libel, will, perhaps, enable us better to appreciate the latest amendments.

The first of these amendments is in the definition of the word "newspaper," which is the same as in the Ontario Act (R. S. O. chap. 57), except that the words "or other periodical publication" are omitted. This omission is of no consequence. The *lapsus penna* of the draughtsman in using the word "therein" instead of "thereon," in this definition, has already been noticed in the comments on the

amended Ontario Act. The effect of this amendment is that the term "newspaper" shall mean what is there stated wherever it occurs in any Act of Parliament containing any provision relating to criminal law. The definition, therefore, applies to the word "newspaper" in the Act respecting Libel, as well as in those sections of the Criminal Procedure Act relating to this offence.

The second amendment enacts that section 140 of the Criminal Procedure Act is amended by adding to the list of offences therein mentioned the offence of libel. This applies to all libels whether published in a newspaper or not. It was first adopted in England in the Newspaper Libel and Registration Act, 1881, and is an important change in the law. The section of the Criminal Procedure Act referred to, although only part of an Act, is usually described as the "Vexatious Indictments Act." It provides that, in the case of certain offences therein named—and libel has now been added to these—no bill shall be laid before a grand jury unless some one of certain preliminary requirements has been complied with. These requirements are briefly the following: 1st, the prosecutor must be bound over to prosecute the offence, or to give evidence before the party accused; 2nd, the accused must have been committed to or detained in custody, or have been bound over to appear and answer to the charge; 3rd, the indictment must have been preferred by the direction of the Attorney-General of the Province, or by the direction, or with the consent, of the proper court or judge. In the case, therefore, of a person sought to be indicted for libel, some one of these requirements or conditions must be fulfilled. If it is not, he cannot be indicted at all. A compliance with any one of the requirements will be sufficient, but there must be at least one.

The direct and immediate result of this change in the law is that all criminal proceedings for libel by a private individual, except proceedings by criminal information, must be initiated before a justice of the Peace. The starting point will be there, and the mode of starting will be a complaint under oath by the prosecutor before the magistrate. Evidence for the prosecutor alone may then be given, in the presence of the accused, and the magistrate may then either dismiss the complaint, or send the accused for trial to the Assizes where alone he can be tried. If the magistrate dismisses the complaint, he is bound, if required to do so by the prosecutor, to take the prosecutor's recognizance—which is a species of bond—to prosecute the charge before the grand jury. The prosecutor must then either go on with the prosecution or have his recognizances forfeited, as it would defeat the object of the statutes, if he were allowed to have his recognizances discharged, or, in other words, to be freed from his self imposed liability to prosecute. If the accused is not discharged, but is sent for trial to the Assizes, it can only be after some one of the requirements mentioned has been complied with. If none of the requirements are complied with, the matter ends, and nothing further can be done. If, however, some one of the conditions is fulfilled, the next step will be for the prosecutor's counsel at the Assizes to prepare an indictment and lay it before the grand jury. That body, like the magistrate, hear only the evidence for the prosecution—the accused person not being represented before them.

—and if they are satisfied with it, they find a true bill; if not, no bill. The grand jury is composed of twenty three men chosen from the "body of the county," as it is called—*i. e.*, promiscuously from the inhabitants of the county—and twelve of them must be agreed before a true bill can be found. If they return the indictment into court marked "no bill," that ends the whole prosecution. If, however, a true bill is found, the case then comes on for trial before a petit jury of twelve "good men and true" in the Assize court. The defendant may there make full answer and defence in person, or by counsel, to the charge, and the jury decide the whole question of libel or no libel, on the evidence offered by both the prosecution and the defence.

The result as a whole of this amendment of the law, which secures a triple investigation of the matter, is to throw a greater protection than formerly around any person charged with this offence. Before this change in the law the proceedings might have been commenced before the grand jury in the first instance. Any person was then at liberty to prefer a bill of indictment for libel against another, before a grand jury, without any previous enquiry before a justice of the peace into the truth of the accusation. This right was liable to abuse, and often was abused, because, as the grand jury only hear the evidence for the prosecution, and the accused is totally unrepresented before them, it frequently happened that a person wholly innocent of the charge made against him, and who had no notice that any proceedings were about to be instituted, found that a grand jury had been induced to find a true bill against him, and so to injure his character, and put him to great expense and inconvenience in defending himself against a groundless accusation. It was to remedy this old state of the law, in libel prosecution, that the amendment was passed, and it is certainly both a material and beneficial change.

As to the several requirements referred to, it may be observed that, when the indictment is preferred by the direction or consent of a judge, it is for the judge, to whom the application is made for that purpose, to decide what materials ought to be before him, but it is not necessary to summon the party accused or to bring him before the judge. The "consent of the court" is not a mere formality, and if the court grants such a consent without having before it materials on which it may exercise a proper discretion, the indictment preferred, in pursuance of such consent, may be quashed. The English Act requires that the direction or consent of the court or judge to prefer the indictment must be "in writing." This is not expressly required under our Act, but there is no doubt that mere verbal proof of such a direction or consent would be insufficient, and that it should be in writing. Any judge of any court having jurisdiction to try the offence may give the direction or consent required by the Act, and the full court will not interfere with the exercise of the judge's discretion. In the case of the Attorney General the direction to prosecute must be by him alone. A direction by a Queen's Counsel, acting as Crown prosecutor for and in the name of the Attorney General, is not sufficient. It has been held that a person prosecuting under this section, 140 of the Criminal Procedure Act, has no right to be represented by any other counsel than the representative of the Attorney General. In practice this decision

would be nugatory by reason of the standing instructions to Crown Counsel, who are not permitted to carry on prosecutions for libel by private prosecutors at the expense of the Crown. The prosecutor must retain his own counsel, and conduct the prosecution at his own expense.

There may be separate counts for separate libels in the same indictment, provided the vexatious indictments section of the Act has been complied with as to each separate libel. If this has not been done as to any one libel, the count containing it may be quashed, unless the leave of the trial judge be obtained on sufficient materials to let it stand in the indictment. So, too, a count for libel may be joined with counts for other misdemeanours in the same indictment. But, in practice, this is seldom if ever done, because it is clogged with inconvenience to the prosecution. Any newspaper libel that is worth prosecuting criminally will hardly be sandwiched in amongst counts for other misdemeanours, but will always be made the subject of a separate indictment. If by any chance a count for libel was included amongst other counts for other offences in the nature of a misdemeanour, the court would no doubt compel the Crown prosecutor to elect between the libel count and the counts for such other offences, and to proceed to trial either on the one or the other, but certainly not on both.

The Dominion Act of 1888 contains another very important amendment of the law respecting prosecutions for libel. It enacts that "every proprietor, publisher, editor, or other person, charged with the publication in a newspaper of any defamatory libel, shall be dealt with, indicted, tried and punished in the Province in which he resides, or in which such newspaper is printed."

There is no such provision as this in the law of England, because the geographical conditions there render it unnecessary. One would have supposed that common justice to newspaper publishers would have made it just as unnecessary here. The readers of our provincial newspapers are confined principally to the province in which these are published, and the good or harm which such newspapers do, and the influence which they exert, is done and exerted mainly in such a constituency. There are exceptions of course, but, in so far as libellous publications are concerned, one would think that any person aggrieved thereby, and really desirous of righting his wrongs, would seek to do so in the forums of those among whom the libellous matter was most largely circulated. A citizen of Vancouver or Quebec, libelled by a Toronto journal, could sustain little or no damage in his own local domicile unless the libel were published there, and in that case he would have a full and effectual remedy against the local publisher. The real mischief would have been done in the constituency of the original publication, and common justice to the party aggrieved—to say nothing of common sense—would seem to require that his remedy should be sought, and his good name re-established, there and nowhere else. This seems to have been the view of the codifiers of the old law, because when, shortly after confederation, the laws of the different provinces were made uniform, the idea of an alleged libeller being dragged from one end of the Dominion to the other, to answer to the charge, seems never to have entered their minds. No provision,

therefore, was made for such a case; nor can we wonder that it was not when we consider how utterly unnatural and foreign such a remedy is for such a wrong.

The real state of the law was first forced upon public attention when, some four years ago, the publisher of the *Toronto News* was summoned to Montreal to meet a criminal charge of libel preferred against him by a French officer of volunteers in that city. Certain comments had been made in the news column of the newspaper on the regiment generally as it was passing through Toronto. These formed the subject of the complaint, which was formulated by the officer as affecting himself individually. The selection of the headquarters of the regiment, nearly four hundred miles distant, as the forum of trial, was a startling revelation to the newspaper public. These and other facts and circumstances of the case were the subject of universal comment at the time, and form an interesting chapter in the history of Canadian journalism. They only serve to set forth in bolder relief the glaring injustice of the law which sanctioned a prosecution under conditions so grossly unfair to the defendant. The publisher was not the author of the alleged libel; he was in the position of one who, under our statutes, might honestly plead that it was published without his authority, consent, or knowledge, and that its publication did not arise from want of due care and caution on his part. There was no malicious or mercenary motive, and the wrong done, if wrong there was, was the result of error arising out of misinformation or misinterpretation of facts, into which any newspaper writer might be led by the demands made by the public upon his journal for daily intelligence. There was above all the forced appeal, in a time of great public excitement, to a tribunal strongly biassed by racial prejudices. Early intelligence is indispensable in a daily newspaper; the journal which falls behind is ruinously handicapped by its energetic competitors; there is too often little time for scrutiny, and none for cross-examination; whatever is received from an apparently trustworthy source must be published, subject of course, to subsequent correction. It is next to impossible, often absolutely impossible, to discriminate between pleasant intelligence and that which may give annoyance in some quarters. Gross carelessness is culpable, but, apart from this, the motive will generally be found a sufficient criterion. Where there has been no malice, nor any mercenary object to serve, mistakes are not proper subjects for punishment, and if they are punished either the press will be gagged, or a premium will be given to that sort of journalism which, having no character to lose, is ready to run any risks for gain.

These remarks apply to the *Queen vs. Sheppard*, for in that case assuredly the punishment did not fit the crime, or rather alleged crime, for which the accused journalist was called upon to answer at great personal and professional sacrifices. The only redeeming feature of the whole prosecution was the plucky and chivalrous defence which he made against his adversaries in their self-chosen stronghold, and the ringing protests that went forth from all parts of British Canada against the unrighteous law that bore him down in the struggle.

The second case of the kind, which illustrates the old state of the law of procedure in libel prosecutions, was that of the *Queen vs.*

Creighton, in which the manager of the *Empire* was invited to visit Quebec on urgent criminal business. It was charged that the statements complained of, which appeared in the columns of that journal, so affected the character and reputation of a prominent public man that the State alone could redress the injury. The invitation in that case was extended by a French gentleman also, and its politeness was, to say the least, equivocal. This sort of inter-provincial courtesy was evidently on the increase, and it was to prevent an embarrassment of riches in this respect that the Legislature was soon after invoked against its repetition. The amendment of the law which we have been discussing was then made. For his courteous readiness to consider the grievances, and, as far as possible, to meet the wishes of journalists, and for his prompt action in ameliorating the rigour of the old law in this respect, the Minister of Justice was very properly tendered the warm thanks of the Association.

Although we usually follow English legislation in measures of law reform, we have followed it either afar off, or not at all, in regard to prosecutions for libel. By section 3 of the Newspaper Libel and Registration Act, 1881, no prosecution of a "proprietor, publisher, editor, or any person responsible for the publication of a newspaper" could be commenced without the fiat of the Director of Public Prosecutions in England, or the Attorney-General in Ireland, being first obtained. These functionaries had the fullest discretion, uncontrolled even by the courts, in granting or refusing their fiats; and they usually exercised this discretion by withholding fiats where civil actions met all the requirements of justice. This was a greater protection than newspaper publishers have ever enjoyed in Canada, and although the law in that respect has been changed by the Libel Amendment Act, 1888, the change, as will be seen, has increased rather than diminished the immunities of newspapers.

By section 4 of the Act of 1881, a magistrate has power, on the hearing of a charge of newspaper libel, to receive evidence as to the matters charged in the libel being true, and—where the libel is contained in a newspaper report—as to the report being fair and accurate, and published without malice, and, in short, as to any matter which might be given in evidence, by way of defence, by the person charged. If, after hearing such evidence, the magistrate is of opinion that there is a strong or probable presumption that the jury on the trial would acquit the person charged, he may dismiss the case. Under this section only such evidence can be received by the magistrate as would be admitted, under proper pleas, at the trial of an indictment for the same libel. He could not, *e. g.*, admit evidence of the truth of a blasphemous, obscene, or seditious libel, because in no case is such evidence admissible. No serious injustice is done by the magistrate's dismissing the case, because the prosecutor may carry the matter further. He may require the magistrate to bind him over to prosecute at the next Assizes, and the magistrate is bound to do so, and at the same time to forward the depositions taken before him to the court in which the indictment will be preferred. This is virtually an appeal against the magistrate's decision, and as such is simpler and less expensive than appeals usually are, either in England or Canada.

If the prosecutor fails at the trial, he is obliged to pay all the defendant's costs, a not unreasonable penalty for pertinaciously pressing a criminal charge against an innocent person.

This section of the English Act is still in force, and there is much in it that is commendable to Canadian legislators. It appears to be fair to both the prosecutor and the defendant, and can scarcely fail to repress vexatious proceedings. A full enquiry into all the facts before an intelligent magistrate, or bench of magistrates, might, in many cases, promote a friendly understanding and secure "peace with honour" to both parties. In any event, an unsuccessful prosecutor before a magistrate would think twice before incurring the graver risks of failure at the Assizes.

Prior to the passing of this section an English magistrate had no more power in dealing with a criminal charge of newspaper libel than a Canadian magistrate has now under the Dominion Act of 1888. On a *prima facie* case being made out, by proof of publication of the libel and any other proof that might be necessary, his duty was to commit the accused for trial; in no case had he jurisdiction to receive evidence for the defence. Nor has he now except when the charge is against "the proprietor, publisher, editor, or any person responsible for the publication of a newspaper." In all other cases the rule is as it was before the Act was passed. By this section a fair line of defence is open to the defendant at the very outset of the proceedings against him. He may show that the occasion of the publication is privileged; that the matter complained of is true, and that it was published for the public good; and that, in any event, it is highly improbable that a jury would convict on the evidence. Except in the exercise of what is called his summary jurisdiction, a magistrate does not hear and determine in criminal cases. His duty is analogous to that of a grand jury, who hear only the evidence for the Crown, and then decide whether the accused shall be put upon his trial. Under this section, therefore, where there is any real conflict of evidence, or where the question of guilt or innocence depends upon the credibility of the witnesses, it would seem to be proper for the magistrate not to dismiss the case, but to send it for trial to a higher court. Where, on the other hand, the evidence of credible witnesses so preponderates in favour of the accused as to leave no room for a reasonable doubt, the magistrate can scarcely err in exercising his discretion against the prosecutor.

But the English Newspaper Libel Act goes even further in the power which it confers upon magistrates in certain cases. By section 5 it is provided that, if upon the hearing of the charge, the magistrate is of opinion that, though the person charged is guilty, the libel is of a trivial character and may be adequately punished in a summary way, he (the magistrate) may, with the consent of the accused, deal with the case summarily, and may convict the person charged and adjudge him to pay a fine not exceeding fifty pounds. This section, like the preceding one, only applies to the hearing of a charge against a proprietor, publisher, editor or other person responsible for the publication of a newspaper. In fact none of these sections of the English Act upon which we have been commenting affect the procedure in cases between

ordinary individuals. Under this fifth section there must be at least four conditions to give the magistrate summary jurisdiction, viz.: 1st, the guilt of the defendant, in publishing the libel, must have been clearly established; 2nd, the libel must be, in the opinion of the magistrate, of a trivial character; 3d, he must be of opinion that a fine, within the limit named, will be an appropriate remedy; and 4th, the accused must consent to the magistrate dealing with the offence summarily. A 5th condition would seem to be that the defendant does not set up the defence of privilege, or of the truth of the defamatory matter and its publication for the public benefit. The defendant's guilt having been proved to the satisfaction of the magistrate, and the latter deeming the offence "trivial" and properly punishable by a fine, the defendant's consent is all that is required to have the whole matter finally determined.

The law in England has been still further amended, and very materially improved, by the "Law of Libel Amendment Act, 1888," passed on the 24th December of that year. By section 8 of that Act, section 3 of the Newspaper Libel and Registration Act, 1881, which made a fiat of the Director of Public Prosecutions a condition precedent of libel prosecutions, is repealed, and instead thereof it is enacted that "no criminal prosecution shall be commenced against any proprietor, publisher, editor, or any person responsible for the publication of a newspaper, for any libel published therein, without the order of a judge at chambers being first had and obtained. Such application shall be made on notice to the person accused, who shall have an opportunity of being heard against such application." This amendment was not secured without a struggle, the bill containing it having been defeated on one or two occasions in previous sessions of the Imperial Parliament. It is a great boon to newspapers, and affords them about as ample protection as could be desired in all such cases. It substitutes a judge of the High Court, skilled in hearing and weighing conflicting evidence in criminal trials for libel, for the Director of Public Prosecutions experienced in hearing only one side, and that the most unfavourable for the journalist; it requires notice to the accused in every instance, and gives him the opportunity of making full answer to the application against him. Under the repealed section of the Newspaper Act the accused had no right to notice, and, it may be presumed, received none. The application for the fiat, moreover, was made *ex parte*—the accused not being represented before the Crown officer—and was based on materials which disclosed only the case for the prosecution, thereby placing the prospective defendant at a great disadvantage. This was not even-handed justice, but it was an improvement all the same on the law of Canada which does not afford even that limited measure of protection to the newspaper press.

Another important amendment made in the English law, by the Act of 1888, is that which provides that "every person charged with the offence of libel before any court of criminal jurisdiction, and the husband or wife of the person so charged, shall be competent, but not compellable, witnesses on every hearing at every stage of such charge." This applies to ordinary individuals, as well as to persons connected

with newspapers, and assimilates, to a great extent, the law of evidence in criminal prosecutions and civil actions for libel. For many years past in England, the parties to almost every species of civil action, libel included, and the husbands and wives of such parties, have been both competent and compellable to give evidence for or against each other. But this rule was not extended to criminal proceedings for an indictable offence, or any offence punishable on summary conviction. In such proceedings, the prosecutor was of course a competent and compellable witness, but the person charged was not; while the husband was not competent or compellable to give evidence for or against his wife, or the wife competent or compellable to give evidence for or against her husband. Certain exceptions to this rule were created by a number of special Acts, for various purposes, but libel never was excepted until the passing of the Libel Amendment Act, 1888. By that Act every person charged with the offence of libel is a competent, but not a compellable, witness, that is, he has the right to tender himself and be examined on his own behalf for the defence, but cannot be called and examined by the Crown as a witness for the prosecution, unless he be willing to testify, because that would be compelling him to testify against himself. But, if examined on his own behalf for the defence, he must, of course, submit to cross-examination by the Crown, like any other witness. The same remarks apply to his wife, or, if the defendant be a married female, to her husband. She or he, as the case may be, is a competent, but not a compellable, witness, in the sense above indicated. This right is open "on every hearing at every stage" of the prosecution. It may, therefore, be exercised at the preliminary enquiry before the magistrate, whether he be acting in a summary way or not, and also before the grand jury, and at the trial. The effect of this change in the law is, as far as possible, to abolish the distinction between libel as a crime and a civil injury, in so far as the evidence is concerned. If the defendant, in a criminal prosecution, and the wife or husband of the defendant were both competent and compellable witnesses, as in a civil action, the law would be identical in both classes of cases. There are good reasons, however, based on public policy and the marriage relationship, for not compelling a defendant charged with a criminal offence to be a witness against himself, and also for not compelling his wife to testify against him.

In Canada the law of evidence on this point in civil suits or actions, as well as in criminal proceedings, has been for many years almost precisely the same as the law of England. In the case of a person tried summarily or otherwise for common assault, or for assault and battery, the defendant is a competent witness for the prosecution, or on his own behalf, and the wife or husband of the defendant is a competent witness on behalf of the defendant. In the case of a person charged with refusing or neglecting to provide food, clothing or lodging for his wife or child, the wife is competent to give evidence for or against her husband, and the person charged is also a competent witness on his own behalf. Libel has never been embraced in the category of these exceptions. Our statutes still brand it as a crime, in the most offensive sense of the term, by rigidly excluding the defendant

from the witness box. The law makers of England, notwithstanding their strong conservatism in all such matters, have not done this. They seem to regard the offence of libel as of a quasi-criminal character, and as a more stringent mode of enforcing the civil injury than the ordinary remedy of an action for damages. The Legislature of Canada may well consider whether they should not follow the worthy example thus set them by the Mother Country, by making the defendant and his wife competent witnesses, thereby enabling the whole truth to be elicited, and the jury to pass upon it as in civil proceedings.

These sections of the English Acts have been commented on because they are in advance of our own law on the subject, and furnish suggestive precedents for Canadian amendments on the same lines. There is no need to follow English precedents slavishly. In law making generally we have to take into account the condition and circumstances of our own people, and our own system of government, federal and provincial, but where desirable amendments of existing laws can be made to harmonize with these, we should not hesitate to borrow and adopt them in any case. Speaking of the criminal law, a learned commentator has said, that "it should be founded upon principles that are permanent, uniform and universal; and should be always conformable to the dictates of truth and justice, the feelings of humanity and the indelible rights of mankind; though it sometimes (provided there be no transgression of these eternal boundaries) may be modified, narrowed, or enlarged, according to the local or occasional necessities of the State which it is meant to govern." Our present law of libel is almost a transcript of the law of England, but it is plain that it is not equally "conformable to the dictates of truth and justice:" we are behind our ancient prototype in modifying and enlarging our law to meet the "necessities of the State which it is meant to govern." One great advantage of adopting English amendments of the statutory law, apart from their own inherent merits, is the assistance derived in their exposition by the learned and able jurists who adorn the English Bench.

There may be some difficulties in the way of Canadian journalists securing all or most of the amendments which we have been discussing, but there are none that are insuperable upon a fair presentation of the case. Some few of the questions involved may be arguable, but the weight of argument, to say nothing of the weight of evidence supplied by English experience, is on our side. The provision in the Act of 1881 requiring the written fiat of the Director of Public Prosecutions, before initiating the prosecution of a newspaper publisher for libel, would hardly suit the necessities of the case in this country. The office of Director of Public Prosecutions was created by a special Act, passed in 1880, which regulates its duties. He is a professional man-of-all-work, and has extensive jurisdiction, under the Attorney-General, in the administration of criminal justice generally. There is no law officer in Canada vested with the same powers. The Deputy Minister of Justice, or the Deputy Attorney-General of any Province, might grant or refuse fiats for newspaper prosecutions, but the performance of such a duty by him, particularly in the case of an influential party journal, would be almost certain to be misconstrued however conscientiously

discharged. The later provision for that purpose, in the Act of 1888, is infinitely preferable for the reasons already mentioned, and there is really nothing to be urged against the adoption of a similar enactment in Canada.

With respect to the other amendments suggested by the English statutes, the chief difficulty would probably be as to the powers to be conferred on the Canadian magistracy. This is a question of some importance, and one in regard to which there will be diversity of opinion. It involves considerations arising out of the nature of the offence itself, and the intricacies of the law affecting it, the constitution of our courts of summary jurisdiction in the different Provinces and the powers with which they are invested, as well as the qualifications of the persons who would be called upon to administer the law in its amended form. Libel is an offence *sui generis*. It is intellectual in its nature—a moral and sentimental wrong—and, therefore, very different from all other delinquencies which consist in physical acts operating against persons or property. Despite all the learning of judicial decision and authority, there is still much vagueness and uncertainty about it. In the determination of questions of privilege, malice, etc., vexed and difficult points are constantly arising; there is, in fact, a good deal of refinement in the whole law on the subject. For these amongst other reasons, libel cases, both civil and criminal, have always been tried in the higher courts of England and Canada. The County Courts and General Sessions of the Peace, which have jurisdiction in many matters of great importance, have none in libel. The enlarged powers given to English magistrates by the Act of 1881, in regard to libel as a crime, is an innovation in this respect, and, to a great extent, an experiment which has never been tried in this country. Nor has the expediency of trying it ever been discussed in the press or in Parliament, although there is certainly something to be said both for and against an amendment of the law on the same lines, if not exactly to the same extent, indicated in the English Act.

In England these powers are in the hands of police or stipendiary magistrates, or of two justices of the peace, who alone can exercise them in any particular case. So that either a police magistrate or a stipendiary magistrate, presiding alone, can hear and determine, in the manner already stated, any case within sections 4 and 5 of the Newspaper Act of 1881; but two ordinary justices of the peace would be required to hear such a case in order to give the court jurisdiction. We, too, have police and stipendiary magistrates, and other officers of justice with power to do alone such acts as are usually required to be done by two or more justices of the peace. The enlarged jurisdiction given the English magistracy was less objectionable, no doubt, by reason of their generally acknowledged fitness to exercise it. They are said to be as a whole a most capable body of gentlemen, well educated, and more or less professionally trained, especially in the large cities and towns where the magisterial office is held by men most competent for the position. This can hardly be said, and it is no discredit that it can not be, of the great body of justices of the peace in Canada. There are, however, in the large centres of population in the older provinces, and for that matter in some of the newer districts also, police and stipendi-

any magistrates of professional knowledge and experience who could, in a summary way, deal acceptably with the niceties of libel as a criminal offence. Amongst our rural magistrates everywhere are also to be found men of good common sense and sound judgment—fair types of the juror class who try libel in our Assize courts—who would probably be able to mete out summary justice with uniform satisfaction. At all events, in doubtful or difficult cases, they would have the right, which all justices of the peace have in criminal investigations, to lay the evidence before their local adviser, the county attorney, and to act on his advice in the whole matter, and the county attorney in turn might, when he thought proper, consult his superior officer, the Provincial Attorney General.

In the present state of our law a single justice of the peace has power, at the preliminary enquiry before him, to determine what is or is not a libel. He is considered quite competent to judge whether any particular publication contains defamatory matter imputing to the complainant the commission of a crime punishable by law, or whether it may have the effect of excluding him from society, or of impairing or hurting his trade or livelihood, or of exposing him to public hatred, contempt, or ridicule, in any of which events an indictment will lie. If a single justice of the peace may be safely entrusted with this duty, why should a police or stipendiary magistrate, or a bench of justices, acting when necessary under the advice of a responsible Crown officer, be held incompetent to receive evidence as to defamatory matters published in a newspaper being for the public benefit, as to what is charged in the libel being true, as to a newspaper report being fair and accurate and published without malice, and as to all other matters proper to be given in evidence by way of defence on the trial? And why, after hearing such evidence, should they be deemed incapable of judging whether there is a strong or probable presumption that the jury on the trial would acquit the person charged, and thereafter of deciding that the prosecutor's case should be dismissed? Magistrates have this power under the English Act of 1881, and, although the Act has since been amended, the clause which gives them jurisdiction has, after eight years' experience, been left intact. Are Canadian magistrates so far behind their brethren across the sea in intelligence and discernment that they should be debarred from pronouncing in a similar way upon cases of the same character? Why, too, should a police magistrate, or two or more Canadian justices of the peace—the guilt of publication being undoubted—be considered incapable of deciding whether a libel published in a newspaper is of a "trivial character," and that it may be adequately punished by a fine, and thereafter, with the consent of the party charged, of dealing with the whole matter summarily, convicting the defendant and mulcting him in a money penalty within a reasonably limited amount? Yet this is what has been done for more than eight years past by magistrates in England, and as far as we can see, with no signs of dissatisfaction on the part of the newspaper public. There may be something to be urged, and, having regard to some refinements of the law of evidence, perhaps a good deal, against ordinary justices of the peace exercising these enlarged powers in libel prosecutions, but whatever force there

may be in the objection as to the average rural justice of the peace, there can be little, if any, in the case of police, district or stipendiary magistrates, professionally trained and experienced. Under "An Act respecting the Summary Administration of Criminal Justice" (Chap. 176, Revised Criminal Law of Canada, 1887), magistrates of the class last named have large powers and authority which they may exercise summarily, with the consent of the party charged in some of the provinces, and without his consent in others, in regard to certain offences. These offences include simple larceny, larceny from the person, embezzlement, obtaining money or property by false pretences, feloniously receiving stolen property, aggravated assaults with or without weapons, including malicious wounding, assaults on females or children, or on magistrates, peace officers, etc. The accused in such cases may make full defence to the charge against him. The Juvenile Offender's Act (Chap. 177 of the Revised Criminal Law) confers like powers on magistrates, including two or more justices of the peace, in the case of youthful culprits charged with larceny. It is impossible within the limits of a paper to discuss this point further but there is this at least to be said that, in the present state of our criminal law and the procedure for administering it, cogent reasons may be found to justify the extension to magistrates in Canada of the enlarged jurisdiction, in regard to the offence of libel, which is at present possessed by magistrates in the Mother Country.

It may seem strange that, of these English amendments of the criminal law of libel, more have not been embodied in our own statute books. But the truth is, no very united and sustained effort has been made to this end by those more immediately interested. A change has occasionally been made when some crying injustice has been done, as in the cases of the *Queen vs. Sheppard* and the *Queen vs. Creighton*, but why wait for a glaring wrong to arouse the Legislature to a sense of its duty in the premises? It is quite likely that the politicians "in Parliament assembled" think the press is "free" enough already, but the politicians, whatever be their infirmities, are not insensible to the influence as well as to the benefits of respectable and legitimate journalism. They can hardly have failed to notice that this species of journalism rules the great body of the press, local as well as metropolitan; that it has enlisted in its service a large amount of capital, enterprise and intellectual ability; that the disposition to discuss all sorts of questions on their merits is stronger than ever it was; that this spirit of fairness has extended into every department of newspaper intelligence; that the tone of discussion has immensely improved; and that the libeller, pure and simple, is a sort of literary monstrosity in the ranks of newspaper writers. Apart from other considerations, not the least of which is their great public usefulness, these of themselves are surely good reasons why newspapers should be protected by every fair and reasonable safeguard that the Legislature can devise.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Moved by Mr. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Moyer, That the Executive Committee be instructed to prepare a report of this meeting for publication and distribution throughout Ontario to publishers. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Bell, That the thanks of this Association are due, and are hereby tendered, to the members who have read "papers" here to-day. Carried.

Moved by H. P. Moore, seconded by John King, That the heartiest thanks of this Association are due to the Toronto Press Club for their courtesy and kindness in extending to us the use of their rooms for this winter meeting, and that Messrs. McLean and Somerville be and are hereby appointed a committee to present to the Press Club our thanks. Carried.

Moved by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Barr, That the sum of five dollars be given to the caretaker of Toronto Press Club rooms for his services connected with the meeting. Carried.

Moved by Mr. McLean, seconded by Mr. Jamieson, That the Executive Committee be instructed, in the event of any move being made to impose postal rates on weekly newspapers, to take such action as may be deemed necessary in the interest of members of this Association. Carried.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

W. R. CLIMIE,
Secretary.

E. H. DEWART,
President.

ATTENDANCE ROLL.

The following is a list of members enrolled as in attendance at the above meeting:—

Rev. E. H. Dewart, D.D.	Christian Guardian	Toronto,
Wm. Watt, Jr.	Expositor	Brantford.
W. R. Climie	Sun	Bowmanville.
J. B. Trayer	Times	Port Hope.
A. R. Fawcett	Review	Streetsville.
R. L. Mortimer	Free Press	Shelburne.
P. E. W. Moyer	Daily News	Berlin
L. W. Shannon	Daily News	Kingston.
J. C. Jamieson	Intelligencer	Belleville.
M. A. James	Statesman	Bowmanville.
W. E. Smallfield	Mercury	Renfrew.
H. P. Moore	Free Press	Acton.
J. J. Crabbe		Toronto.
L. G. Jackson	Era	Newmarket.
C. H. Mortimer	{ Milling News and Can. Architect & Builder.	{ Toronto.
J. B. McLean	Empire	Toronto.
C. D. Barr	Post	Lindsay.
J. J. Bell	Ex editor Recorder	Brockville.
Jos. J. Cave	Express	Beaverton.
John H. Thompson	Post	Thorold.
Rev. W. W. Smith	Canadian Independent	Toronto.
W. J. Watson	Standard	Dundas.
Fred. J. Prior	News	Toronto.
A. J. Matheson	Expositor	Perth.
Roy V. Somerville	Banner	Dundas.
W. F. Maclean	World	Toronto.
Jas. S. Brierly	Journal	St. Thomas.
H. J. Snelgrove	World	Cobourg.
John Motz	Journal	Berlin.
J. W. Bengough	Grip	Toronto.
J. E. Atkinson	Globe	Toronto.
Jno. Cameron	Globe	Toronto.
H. Hough	Grip	Toronto.
F. J. Jewell	Enterprise	Colborne.
A. F. Campbell	Conservator	Brampton.
C. W. Lawton	World	Beeton.
George Young	Courier	Trenton.
C. Blackett Robinson	Canada Presbyterian	Toronto.

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The primary object aimed at in the establishment of the Canadian Press Association was that of creating more intimate relations, socially, among the editorial fraternity of Canada, and by bringing together annually members of the Fourth Estate in a reunion where party differences should be forgotten and social acquaintanceships formed, thereby tend to check the asperities which unfortunately too often were apparent in the discussion of public questions, and banish as far as possible the bitterness of tone which characterized the public press. The first meeting in the interest of such an association was held in the city of Kingston on September 27th, 1859, and since that time an assemblage of members of the editorial profession has been held annually, attended in many instances with beneficial results. Up to 1863 the attendance was numerically meagre, but commencing with this period an excursion to some point or points of interest was added as an attendant on the annual meeting, and the privilege of attending the annual Press excursion was extended to the ladies of members. Thenceforward the annual gathering was looked forward to with increased interest, and the knowledge particularly of the more important sections of our own country, gleaned during these yearly trips, has proved a valuable aid in dealing practically with many public questions. Subjoined will be found a record of the location of each annual meeting and the officers elected thereat.

1859.

Meeting for Organization at Kingston, September 27th.

W. Gillespy.....	President.
J. G. Brown.....	1st Vice-President.
Josiah Blackburn.....	2nd Vice-President.
Thomas Sellar.....	Secretary and Treasurer.
D. McDougall.....	Honorary Secretary.
George Sheppard.....	Executive Committee.
James Seymour.....	
James Somerville.....	
Thomas McIntosh.....	
John Jacques.....	

1860.

Second Annual Meeting at Toronto, September 19th.

W. Gillespy	President.
D. Wylie	1st Vice-President.
D. McDougall	2nd Vice-President.
Thomas Sellar	Secretary and Treasurer.
J. E. P. Doyle	Honorary Secretary.
C. J. Hynes	} Executive Committee.
A. McLachlan	
James Somerville	
Josiah Blackburn	
W. G. Culloden	

1861.

Third Annual Meeting at London in September.

W. Gillespy	President.
D. McDougall	1st Vice-President.
Rufus Stephenson	2nd Vice-President.
Thomas Sellar	Secretary.
J. E. P. Doyle	Honorary Secretary.
J. G. Brown	} Executive Committee.
D. Wylie	
M. Coldwell	
A. McLachlan	
J. W. McLean	

1862.

Fourth Annual Meeting at Toronto, September 23rd.

D. McDougall	President.
D. Wylie	1st Vice-President.
Thomas White	2nd Vice-President.
Thomas Sellar	Secretary.
M. Bowell	Honorary Secretary.
W. Gillespy	} Executive Committee.
J. Young	
J. A. Campbell	
W. T. Cox	
R. E. O'Connor	

1863.

Fifth Annual Meeting at Toronto, November 20th.

D. Wylie	President.
Thomas White	1st Vice-President.
M. Howell	2nd Vice-President.
Thomas Sellar	Secretary.
J. A. Campbell	Honorary Secretary.
A. McLachlan	Executive Committee.
James Seymour	
W. Wallace	
George McMullen	
W. T. Johnson	

1864.

Sixth Annual Meeting at Belleville, November 24th.

Thomas White	President.
M. Howell	1st Vice-President.
Thomas Sellar	2nd Vice-President.
James A. Campbell	Secretary and Treasurer.
W. T. Cox	Honorary Secretary.
D. Wylie	Executive Committee.
T. Messenger	
J. Somerville	
A. J. Belch	
J. Laing	

1865.

Seventh Annual Meeting at Brockville, September 6th.

M. Howell	President.
Thomas Sellar	1st Vice-President.
J. A. Campbell	2nd Vice-President.
W. T. Cox	Secretary and Treasurer.
W. Buckingham	Honorary Secretary.
T. White	Executive Committee.
D. Wylie	
John Siddons	
J. Somerville	
W. M. Nicholson	

1866.

Eighth Annual Meeting at Montreal, August 22nd.

Thomas Sellar	President.
James A. Campbell	1st Vice-President.
W. T. Cox	2nd Vice-President.
W. Buckingham	Secretary and Treasurer.
S. I. Jones	Honorary Secretary.
E. Jackson	} Executive Committee.
W. M. Nicholson	
A. J. Belch	
C. B. Robinson	
R. Romaine	

1867.

Ninth Annual Meeting at Goderich, August 7th.

J. A. Campbell.....	President.
W. T. Cox.....	1st Vice-President.
Robert Boyle.....	2nd Vice-President.
E. Jackson.....	Secretary and Treasurer.
A. J. Belch.....	Assistant Secretary.
W. M. Nicholson.....	} Executive Committee.
C. H. Hull.....	
J. McLagan.....	
J. Hogg.....	
J. Cameron.....	
<i>Essayist.</i> —John King, Berlin. <i>Poet.</i> —David Wylie, Brockville.	

1868.

Tenth Annual Meeting at Collingwood, July 10th.

Wm. Buckingham	President.
Robert Boyle	1st Vice-President.
W. M. Nicholson	2nd Vice-President.
E. Jackson	Secretary and Treasurer.
H. Hough	Assistant Secretary.
R. Mathison	} Executive Committee.
A. McLean	
J. K. Mason	
J. Cameron	
C. B. Robinson	

1869.

Eleventh Annual Meeting at Cobourg, July 20th.

D. Wylie.....	President.
J. Cameron.....	1st Vice-President.
A. J. Belch.....	2nd Vice-President.
E. Jackson.....	Secretary and Treasurer.
J. Somerville.....	Assistant Secretary.
R. Mathison.....	Executive Committee.
W. Gillespy.....	
W. Halley.....	
W. Buckingham.....	
J. S. Gurnett.....	

1870.

Twelfth Annual Meeting at Brantford, July 19th.

E. Jackson.....	President.
James Somerville.....	1st Vice-President.
A. McLean.....	2nd Vice-President.
W. Buckingham.....	Secretary and Treasurer.
A. J. Belch.....	Assistant Secretary.
R. Mathison.....	Executive Committee.
W. R. Climie.....	
R. Mathieson.....	
J. Parnell.....	
W. Gillespy.....	

1871.

Thirteenth Annual Meeting at Toronto, July 18th.

James Somerville.....	President.
Rev. W. F. Clarke.....	1st Vice-President.
E. Miles.....	2nd Vice-President.
R. Mathison.....	Secretary and Treasurer.
H. Hough.....	Assistant Secretary.
W. Gillespy.....	Executive Committee.
E. Jackson.....	
A. McLachlan.....	
M. Howell.....	
J. Smith.....	

1872.

Fourteenth Annual Meeting at Bracebridge, July 10th.

John Cameron	President.
J. Innes	1st Vice-President.
W. R. Climie	2nd Vice-President.
H. Hough	Secretary and Treasurer.
J. G. Buchanan	Assistant Secretary.
Rev. W. F. Clarke	Executive Committee.
J. Smith	
T. Messenger	
W. H. Hacking	
E. Jackson	

1873.

Fifteenth Annual Meeting at London, September 24th.

Rev. W. F. Clarke	President.
H. Hough	1st Vice-President.
A. Mathieson	2nd Vice-President.
J. G. Buchanan	Secretary and Treasurer.
John McLean	Assistant Secretary.
James Somerville	Executive Committee.
E. Jackson	
P. Burke	
John Cameron	
M. Bowell, M.P.	

1874.

Sixteenth Annual Meeting at Toronto, July 21st.

H. Hough	President.
A. Mathieson	1st Vice-President.
John Smith	2nd Vice-President.
J. G. Buchanan	Secretary and Treasurer.
John McLean	Assistant Secretary.
W. R. Climie	Executive Committee.
James Innes	
John Cameron	
E. Jackson	
F. J. Gissing	

1875.

Seventeenth Annual Meeting at Hamilton, July 20th.

John Cameron	President.
C. D. Barr	1st Vice-President.
D. McCullough	2nd Vice-President.
J. G. Buchanan	Secretary and Treasurer.
John McLean	Assistant Secretary.
E. Jackson	Executive Committee.
A. Matheson	
James Somerville	
W. R. Climie	
Goldwin Smith	

1876.

Eighteenth Annual Meeting at Toronto, June 30th.

C. D. Barr	President.
D. McCullough	1st Vice-President.
J. G. Buchanan	2nd Vice-President.
W. R. Climie	Secretary and Treasurer.
F. J. Gissing	Assistant Secretary.
H. Hough	Executive Committee.
A. Matheson	
James Somerville	
E. Jackson	
James Shannon	

1877.

Nineteenth Annual Meeting at Toronto, August 13th.

James Innes	President.
James Shannon	1st Vice-President.
A. Matheson	2nd Vice-President.
W. R. Climie	Secretary and Treasurer.
F. J. Gissing	Assistant Secretary.
H. Hough	Executive Committee.
John Cameron	
J. B. Traves	
J. Somerville	
E. Jackson	

1878.

Twentieth Annual Meeting at Guelph, July 9th.

James Shannon	President.
Goldwin Smith	1st Vice-President.
J. B. Traves	2nd Vice-President.
W. R. Climie	Secretary and Treasurer.
C. B. Robinson	Assistant Secretary.
H. Hough	} Executive Committee.
N. King	
A. Matheson	
E. Jackson	
C. D. Barr	
James Innes	

1879.

Twenty-first Annual Meeting at Kingston, July 22nd.

A. Matheson	President.
J. B. Traves	1st Vice-President.
E. J. B. Pense	2nd Vice-President.
W. R. Climie	Secretary and Treasurer.
George Tye	Assistant Secretary.
C. D. Barr	} Executive Committee.
H. Hough	
E. Jackson	
James Innes	
C. B. Robinson	
James Shannon	

1880.

Twenty-second Annual Meeting at Toronto, August 5th.

J. B. Traves	President.
E. J. B. Pense	1st Vice-President.
George Tye	2nd Vice-President.
W. R. Climie	Secretary and Treasurer.
A. J. Matheson	Assistant Secretary.
C. D. Barr	} Executive Committee.
H. Hough	
E. Jackson	
James Innes	
C. B. Robinson	
James Somerville	
A. Matheson	

1881.

Twenty-third Annual Meeting at Port Hope, August 2nd.

E. J. B. Pense.....	President.
George Tye.....	1st Vice-President.
A. Blue	2nd Vice-President.
W. R. Climie.....	Secretary and Treasurer.
A. J. Matheson	Assistant Secretary.
C. D. Barr.....	} Executive Committee.
H. Hough	
E. Jackson.....	
James Innes.....	
C. B. Robinson	
James Somerville.....	
J. B. Traves	

1882.

Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting at Toronto, August 22nd.

George Tye.....	President.
C. B. Robinson.....	1st Vice-President.
G. R. Pattullo.....	2nd Vice-President.
W. R. Climie.....	Secretary and Treasurer.
J. B. Traves.....	Assistant Secretary.
C. D. Barr	} Executive Committee.
H. Hough	
E. Jackson.....	
James Innes.....	
H. Smallpiece.....	
W. Watt.....	
E. J. B. Pense	

1883.

Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting at Montreal, August 7th.

C. B. Robinson.....	President.
G. R. Pattullo.....	1st Vice-President.
J. A. Davidson	2nd Vice-President.
W. R. Climie.....	Secretary and Treasurer.
J. B. Traves.....	Assistant Secretary.
George Tye.....	} Executive Committee.
E. J. B. Pense.....	
C. D. Barr.....	
H. Hough.....	
W. Watt.....	
H. E. Smallpiece.....	
James Somerville.....	

1884.

Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting at Toronto, August 1st.

G. R. Pattullo.....	President.
J. A. Davidson	1st Vice-President.
W. Watt.....	2nd Vice-President.
W. R. Climie.....	Secretary and Treasurer.
J. B. Traves.....	Assistant Secretary.
George Tye.....	} Executive Committee.
E. J. B. Pense.....	
C. D. Barr.....	
H. Hough	
H. E. Smallpiece.....	
James Somerville.....	
C. B. Robinson	

1885.

Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting at Toronto, August 4th.

J. A. Davidson	President.
William Watt, Jr.....	1st Vice-President.
H. E. Smallpiece	2nd Vice-President.
W. R. Climie.....	Secretary and Treasurer.
J. B. Traves.....	Assistant Secretary.
George Tye.....	} Executive Committee.
E. J. B. Pense.....	
C. D. Barr.....	
H. Hough	
James Somerville.....	
C. B. Robinson.....	
G. R. Pattullo.....	

1886.

Twenty-eighth Annual Meeting at Toronto, August 5th.

William Watt, Jr.....	President.
J. J. Crabbe.....	1st Vice-President.
A. Pattullo.....	2nd Vice-President.
W. R. Climie.....	Secretary and Treasurer.
J. B. Traves.....	Assistant Secretary.
E. E. Sheppard	} Executive Committee.
H. P. Moore.....	
W. R. Davis.....	
C. D. Barr.....	
H. Hough	
J. A. Davidson.....	

1887.

Twenty-ninth Annual Meeting at Toronto, August 2nd.

J. J. Crabbe	President.
A. Pattullo	1st Vice-President.
E. H. Dewart, D.D.	2nd Vice-President.
W. R. Climie	Secretary and Treasurer.
J. B. Traves	Assistant Secretary.
John Cameron	} Executive Committee.
H. P. Moore	
H. Hough	
C. B. Robinson	
Roy V. Somerville	
William Watt, Jr.	

1888.

Thirtieth Annual Meeting at Toronto, July 31st.

E. H. Dewart, D.D.	President.
D. Creighton, M.P.P.	1st Vice-President
Roy V. Somerville	2nd Vice-President.
W. R. Climie	Secretary and Treasurer.
J. B. Traves	Assistant Secretary.
H. P. Moore	} Executive Committee.
A. Pattullo	
Lyman G. Jackson	
J. S. Brierley	
J. B. McLean	
J. C. Jamieson	
J. J. Crabbe	